

FRIDAY JANUARY 1 1999

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● What really sells newspapers ● Best and worst ads ● media times pages 32,33 Three-year referendum campaign to decide fate of the pound now begins in earnest

Euro dream transformed into reality

BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

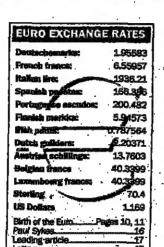
EUROPEAN dreamers finally saw their cherished hope become reality at midnight when 11 countries signed away their sovereignty over monetary policy and the single currency was born.

The birth of the euro was marked in Brussels with a mass balloon launch and toast poured from methuseiahs of champagne as ministers spoke of a great moment in history and set their sights on deeper political and economic

But there were still sour notes amid the rhetoric, with a public spat between France and Wim Duisenberg over whether he would step down as governor of the European Central Bank in favour of a

Frenchman in four years. Germany used the occasion to fire another warning shot at Britain over the need for "ending unfair competition" and for raising low rates of tax in the EU, while Jacques Santer, the European Commission president, provoked a row by insisting that Britain's eventual membership of the single

currency was inevitable. "As I understand the British Government and the Chancelior, it is not a question of if the UK will join, but when," he told BBC Radio Four's The World This Weekend.



He also angered Tories by insisting that the euro would lead to further political integration. "I think the euro is not only a factor of economic integration, but also of political in-

tegration." he said. Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, retorted that it was "extremely arrogant and simply wrong" to suggest that membership was inevitable. He said: "Labour is trying to bounce Britain into the euro zone by giving a nod and a

wink to European politicians."
In Brussels, the 11 "Euroland" nations were taking what was seen as the most sig-nificant leap to that integration since the launch of the Common Market more than 40 years ago by handing power for setting interest rates to the Frankfurt-based ECB. These open at 3 percent.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French minister, set the tone by declaring: This, December 31, 1998, will be one of the great dates in the history of the 20th century."

Other ministers invoked the history of the moment, by em-phasising the dramatic political consequences of their action in creating a currency zone of 290 million people that they said would rival the United States in commercial power. 'This is a decisive step towards the ever closer political union of Europe, said Carlo

Ciampi of Italy.

Only Charles McCreevy of Ireland acknowledged uncertainty, when he said: "Every-body is joining in an experi-ment, and with any experiper cent certitude that it will be an outstanding success," he said. Ireland was worried about the absence of Britain. its main trading partner, he

M Strauss Kahn told The Times that the "Euro-II" council of finance ministers would rapidly become the "economic government of Europe", setting policy to match the monetary power of the ECB. And Germany, which takes over the EU presidency today, has an ambitious programme for further integration. Werner Muller, the Economy Minis-



Children waiting for the launch of 3,000 balloons to mark the launch of the euro in Brussels yesterday. The grown-ups drank champagne

ter, warned other members that Germany expected rapid moves to more common policies. The euro requires economic co-operation in Europe. Unfair competition is bad." With Britain clearly in his sights, he added: "National actions at the cost of other member states will endanger our success." The first step must be immediate completion of a code of conduct on business taxation. The code, now under negotiation, is aimed at eliminating "unfair" low-tax re-

Britain, which was alone among the 15 EU states in fail-

ing to send a minister to the Brussels event, despatched Sir Stephen Wall, its EU ambassador, to wish the project well. The Government was "fully committed to doing all it can to ensure that success," Sir

Stephen said. Although the new notes and coins will not appear for three years, the euro is now the standard currency of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Luxem-bourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Denmark, Sweden, Britain and Greece remain outside. Pesetas, francs,

marks and other national cur-

rencies become arithmetically awkward sub-divisions, with, for example, one euro being worth 6.69957 French Francs. But in a move aimed at opening competition and cutting costs, euros can immediately used for cheques, bank accounts, credit cards, company accounts and bills and stock

The fixing of the rates start-ed a frantic weekend for more than 50,000 staff in the City of London and other European financial centres in preparation or switching all trading to euros on Monday. The launch of the euro also

saw the start of the real battle for the pound, with enthusiasts and sceptics firing their first shots in what is likely to be a bitter struggle in the coming years.

Eighteen leading members of the Business for Sterling pressure group write in a letter to The Times today that the single currency could exacerhate Europe's economic prob-lems and that while they wish the euro well, they insist that Britain should stay outside. And Paul Sykes, who financed many sceptical MPs in the last election campaign, promises in The Times that writes in

The Times that anti-European groups would give no quarter in the battle to keep Britain outside. The euro would "fatally undermine the legitimacy of our domestic democratic insti-

tutions." he writes. But Sir Leon Brittan, vicechairman of the European Commission, predicted that Britain would join in three years time when people realised they were missing out on the advantages of the euro. Britain shouldn't be left behind," he said, while Lord Howe of Aberavon urged Tony Blair to "take risks" and set a date for joining.

Carey pleads for refugees

The Archbishop of Canter-bury. Dr George Carey, is to make an appeal today for greater public understanding of the world's 50 million refugees forced from their homes by war, natural disaster or per-

In his message, on BBC1 this morning, the Archbishop will criticise the British media for "whipping up" fear and hostility against the 50,000 asylum seekers in this _Page 2

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Et tu Brutus? Jenkins was ready to ban French wines

By ADRIAN LEE. AND JAMES LANDALE

LORD JENKINS of Hillhead

admitted yesterday that in 1968 he was the architect of a secret Labour plan, code-named Brutus, to ban foreign holidays and stop luxury imports. French wine, Swiss watches, avocados and out-ofseason strawberries were are on the list to save the economy. Lord Jenkins, then the Labour Chancellor, and not unknown for his love of claret, drew up the contingency scheme in such secrecy that only Harold Wilson, the Prime Minister, and a handful of Cabinet ministers were

aware of its existence. Despite devaluation in 1967. the pound was still under pressure in March 1968 after two months of poor trade figures. The Government was desperate to avoid a second devalua-



Jenkins: emergency plan to save the economy

tion which would have jeopardised its future but had few currency reserves to support sterling. The existence of Brutus, which was never implemented, is revealed today in Cabinet papers released from the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule. The 18-page

plan was drafted eight times by a small group of trusted eco-nomic advisers and ready by the summer of 1968 to be implemented within a week in the event of a "major external cataclysm" such as the gold crisis of earlier that year.

The documents reveal that Brutus could also have been implemented if two further poor sets of balance of pay-ments figures were published. It would also have seen banks closed for four days, and sterling assets held by foreign countries blocked. Wages were to have been frozen, embassy staff pared and defence

and foreign-aid spending cut. A less severe alternative involved setting quotas to limit the import of items such as cut flowers, jam, beers, chocolate and stockings. It was estimated that the move would save Britain £910 million in 1969. Wilson and his colleagues

agonised over the inclusion of tinned salmon on the list, According to one paper, al-though savings of £8.7 million would be made a shortage would be unpopular particularly in the North of England where it is a traditional high tea food". Similarly, quotas on tinned fruit could damage the Australian economy.

Lord Jenkins, now a senior Liberal Democrat, said vesterday that the plans were very much his "baby". He said: They were drawn up in the Treasury. Harold Wilson was in a very supine mood at that

Asked about the potential impact on his reputation of banning goods such as avocados, he dismissed the question as "trivial". He said: "It would have been very foolish if you didn't plan for worst cases."

The 1968 files, pages 4, 5

Hostages furious at delays

SURVIVORS of the Yemen hostage crisis criticised ministers yesterday for failing to send an RAF aircraft to bring them home swiftly.

Their journey to Britain will be in three stages: a flight from Aden to Sanaa in North Yemen, a Yemen Airways flight to Paris, and then, after a three-hour wait, a British Airways connection to Gatwick.

The Foreign Office in London yesterday summoned Yemen's Ambassador to demand an explanation for the siege, in which three Britons and an Australian died.

One of the freed men, David Holmes, said: "I have had enough of this farce. Why haven't our government done more?" Laurence Whitehouse, whose wife Margaret died in the shootout, said: "We are sick of being shuffled around."

Yemen 'whitewash', page '

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Happy MDCCCCLXXXXVIIII. Or is it?

BY GILES WHITTELL

WELCOME to the year MIM. as the Emperor Flavius might have said. Then again, he might have preferred to wish his subjects a happy new MCMX-CIX. Or should that be MCMXCVIIII?

We have no idea, but some guidance from the ancients would have been useful; 23 centuries after the invention of Roman numerals, confusion reigns as to how they should be used to indicate the year 1999. The Year 1999 Problem has left architects dithering over how to inscribe their cornerstones and film studios in a quandary over the dating of their new releases. Using the Romans' system of numer-

als in its simplest form, the year that begins today is MDCCCCLXXXVIIII enough to make a stone-mason change trades. Instead, short-cuts were devised, the best-known of which is simple subtraction - the system by which IX equals nine and XIX is 19.

For modern scholars, however, subtraction adds a problem. Roman numerals were based, some say, on signs people used to count with their fingers. With no single inventor to etch in stone a manual for their proper use, it remains unclear when, if ever, subtraction was acceptable for formal dating. Paul Lewis, a London book collector. says the figures XL, or 50 minus 10, or 40, were found among the ruins of Fla-



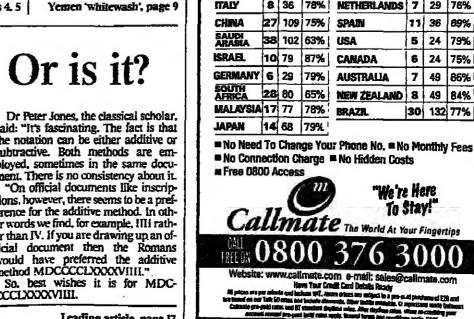
vius's Colosseum. Others, like the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Washington, which has been assigned the Year 1999 problem by the US Government, claim subtraction is largely a 19th-century convenience.

Dr Peter Jones, the classical scholar, said: "It's fascinating. The fact is that the notation can be either additive or subtractive. Both methods are employed, sometimes in the same docu-

ment. There is no consistency about it. "On official documents like inscriptions, however, there seems to be a preference for the additive method. In other words we find, for example, III i rather than IV. If you are drawing up an official document then the Romans would have preferred the additive method MDCCCCLXXXXVIIII."

CCCLXXXXVIIII.

Leading article, page 17



Embrace the refugees, says Archbishop

SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will to-day appeal for greater public understanding of the 50 million refugees throughout the world, uprooted from their homes by persecution, war or

In his annual new-year message, to be broadcast at 12.30pm on BBCI today, Dr Carey criticises the media in Britain for whipping up fear and hostility against the 50,000 or so asylum-seekers in this country and suggests it is wrong to think of them merely as welfare "scroungers".

"The presence of strangers can make us nervous or even angry. But people don't readily uproot themselves from all that is familiar — choosing to leave homeland, family and friends is probably the most painful decision they will ever have to make," he says.

Dr Carey points out that the baby Jesus, whose family was forced to flee to Egypt shortly after his birth, is probably his-



Marlene Dietrich: one of most famous refugees

tory's best-known refugee. He adds that some of the great names of our century have been refugees, including Albert Einstein, the Jewish mathematical physicist who left Germany for the United States following Hitler's rise to power in 1934; Marc Chagall, the Jewish painter who left Russia for France in 1922, and the German actress Marlene Dietrich, who settled in the United

States.

The Archbishop's speech was inspired by a meeting he

SUCCESS SPRUNG FROM PERSECUTION

Ben Elton: comedian. Grandfather Victor Ehrenberg was eminent historian and a refugee from Czechoslovakia. The Fugees: rap group. Two members who are also solo art-

ists - Wyclef Jean and Pras Michel - are both from Haiti. Lord (Lew) Grade: Jewish Russian refugee. TV mogul with brother Leslie. Until his death last month was chairman of the Grade Co and ITC entertainment. Michael, son of Leslie Grade, is former controller of BBCl and chief executive of Channel 4, Now chairman of First Leisure.

Lord (Paul) Hamlyn: publishing tycoon and patron of the arts. Came from Germany as a six-year-old refugee. Margaret Hodge, MP: father was a refugee from Nazi Ger-

Sir Richard Rogers: archi-

tect. Mother was refugee from

Trieste in 1938. Lord (Maurice) and Charles Saatchi: advertising tycoons. Sons of Iranian Jewish refugee textile merchant

Tanya Sarne: fashion designer and creator of Ghost label. Father was a Russian refugee who fled to London in 1939. Sir Georg Solti: conductor. Was director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the 1960s and went on to the Chicago Symphony Orches-tra. Born in Budapest, he was a refugee from the Nazi re-

Christopher Wreh: footballer, plays for Arsenal. He escaped to France from Liberia when Aick Wek: model from Sudan.

When she was 14, her family

were forced to flee after a mili-

kia: Tina. 9. and Puckie, 6, who are seeking asylum in Britain with their parents. The family left their homeland two years ago as a result of growdiscrimination against

Romany children from Slova-

Once in Britain the family faced further hostility and were forced to move to a different town after a brick was thrown through the window of their home.

Drawing on the Christian theme of hospitality to stran-gers, Dr Carey stresses the im-portance of providing both a material and spiritual home

for everybody.
"While we hope and pray that Tina and Puckie and other refugees may find a place they may call home, each of us is a spiritual refugee travelling through life, looking for the one of whom it is said in the Scripture: The Eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms. That is where we can all find a place called home," he says.

His speech comes amid

growing political and public concern over what to do about the thousands of refugees coming into Britain each year. More than 45,000 refugees are now seeking asylum in the UK, most in London and the South East, with a continuing influx from war-torn Kosovo and Albania. The Home Of-fice has already admitted that it is facing the biggest immigration crisis in a decade.

Local authorities are obliged to look after asylum-seekers who arrive on their doorstep. South East England has been most hard-pressed because many arrive at London's air-ports or the Channel ports. Refugees can choose any lo-

cal authority to ask for help. They are usually accommodated in bed-and-breakfast or cheap rented flats. Single adults are only entitled to food vouchers and shelter under the National Assistance Act 1948 which requires councils to help the destitute. They cannot be given cash.



Seconds out Brian Tipper cleaning the face of Big Ben's clock yesterday ready for the new year chimes. The mechanism was adjusted to add a second to the last minute of 1998, to keep time with atomic clocks

Prescott seeks to counter image of strife

BY ROLAND WATSON

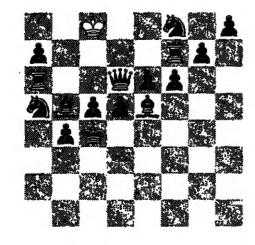
JOHN PRESCOTT insisted yesterday he was "fully on board" Tony Blair's modernis-ing crusade as he tried to coun-ter the impression of a Cabinet icells fulti

riven by power struggles after Peter Mandelson's departure. But the Deputy Prime Minister gave the clearest indication yet that he believed the Prime Minister's policy of working with the Liberal Democratis had sone far enough He used had gone far enough. He used the past tense when asked about further areas of co-operation. He said he fully supported cross-party efforts on devo-lution. But he added: "What we carried out was in the maniesto and what the Prime Minister put forward." His comments provided the strongest sign that Mr Prescott would oppose any moves to offer Pad-dy Ashdown a Cabinet post.

Mr Prescott insisted he was behind the Government's legislative proposals and dismiss-ed reports of rifts at the top of the Cabinet as "prattle". He told BBC Radio 4's Today prog-ramme: "We are a modernising government. There is a new Labour Government that has produced a radical programme that we can be really proud of, and I am very supportive of all those measures." With Mr Blair abroad, Mr Prescott had previously used a newspaper interview to say that he and the Chancellor had agreed on a more interventionist approach to the economy. The Left used his embrace of "the Keynesian way" to de-mand that traditional Labour values return to the heart of policy making. But yesterday he tried to calm the jostling for influence that has followed Mr Mandelson's resignation, denying that he was taking advantage of Mr Blair's absence to flex his muscles.

Downing Street sources said No 10 was relaxed about Mr Prescott's earlier comments, which they said had been designed to show that claims of a feud between Mr Prescott and Mr Brown were untrue. The sources added that his views on co-operation with the Liberal Democrats were well known, and similar to

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Tories call for | Hague enlists more studies of GM crops

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

THE Tories yesterday called for a delay of at least three years on the commercial growing of genetically modified crops to allow time for more research into their safety.

Tim Yeo, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, said that widespread anxieties about such crops needed to be al-layed if their potentially significant benefits for future food production were to be realised. Commercial planting should be postponed for at least the rest of this Parliament, Mr Yeo said, by which time a number of government-commissioned studies on the environmental impact of genetically modified crops

would have been completed. "We will have a lot more information by then and the po-sition could be reviewed," he said. There is a very strong argument for somewhat more caution than the Government has so far shown and very little to be lost by slowing down

He added: "Many environmental groups have called for a moratorium for up to three years to ensure a proper examination of the impact of genetically modified organisms on the British countryside.

"The Labour Government's attitude to this is not clear but

the case for delay has been strengthened by their failure to provide full details of their own testing.

"Against this background I believe the commercial release of such crops should be delayed until the results of government-commissioned studies on the impact of genetically modified crops are available," he said.

In October the Government announced that it had reached a voluntary agreement with the plant-breeding industry for a delay of at least three years in the commercial growing of any crops genetically engineered to be resistant to insect pests.



Yeo: wants moratorium on planting new crops

rank-and-file help on policy

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RANK-and-file Tories will for the first time be given direct input into policymaking in what William Hague yesterday described as a year of fundamen-

tal change for his party.

Mr Hague said that 1999 had to be the "year of ideas". new thinking and fresh language, and announced a radical overhaul of policies to put the Tories "back on the electoral mao".

A new mechanism for policy-making will give party activists, outside experts and backbench MPs a say in the direction of the party. The aim is to broaden the appeal of policies and try to ensure they are guaranteed a high degree of popular support before they are

sprung on voters.
Shadow cabinet ministers are to head new "policy agenda groups" covering issues ranging from health, welfare and education to agriculture, local government and the economy. They will be expected to discuss policy with outside experts, including academics and those at the sharp end in each field, along with members of the party's rank and file and backbench MPs.

The groups will use the preliminary results of the party's Listening to Britain campaign as their starting point, and

will be encouraged to commis sion further research. The initial proposals will be pulled together in an Agenda for Brit-ain, which will be published and debated by the party later in the year. Although Tories will deny

that they are resorting to the "focus group" approach adopted by Labour before the last election, the development means that policies will be tested to a far greater degree be fore they are unveiled.

The details came in a letter from Mr Hague to local constimency party chairmen, delivered as he spent his winter holiday in Montana.

Mr Hague said that the party could not simply rely on the Government and the Liberal Democrats to make mistakes. "We need to develop a fresh. positive and compassionate Conservative agenda for the next century. That means a thorough overhaul of all our

In his letter, Mr Hague said: "Each time our great party has been in opposition, we have turned misfortune to our advantage and developed the new thinking that has taken a new generation of Conserva-tives back into government. Now it falls to us to begin that process again."

Motorists warned of fuel 'scam'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are to issue warnings to prevent a multimillion-pound "scam" misleading motorists into having their car engines converted unnecessarily.

About six million motorists will be unable to buy leaded petrol for their cars from January 2000, when a European Union ban comes into force. Ministers are worried that unscrupulous garage mechanics will try to persuade drivers to pay up to £500 to have their engines converted to run on unleaded petrol, when many will do so without a conversion.

A national information campaign will

be mounted this month in garages, service stations and MoT testing centres, telling motorists to beware of those pressing them to have expensive conversions.

Up to three and a half million cars running on leaded petrol will be able to switch to unleaded without any changes.

Other engines will need adjustments to their ignition timing.

Motorists driving an estimated 2.3 million cars whose engines could be harmed by unleaded petrol will be able to buy "lead replacement petrol" from the au-turn, as leaded petrol is phased out. The petrol contains additional lubricant to reduce engine wear.

The information campaign will stress

that motorists should seek advice from motoring organisations, car manufacturers or petrol retailers on the best alterna-tive to leaded petrol.

The ban on leaded fuel, which has been

in force in many European countries for several years, is intended to reduce pollution. But the Treasury will lose about £500 million a year from the higher rates of duty charged on four-star leaded petrol, which costs about 6 pence a litre more than unleaded petrol.

Ministers concede that it is unlikely that this money could be recouped from motorists, who already face a 9 per cent increase in duty, equivalent to about 5p per

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Avalanche survivors tell of lonely wait for resigners



Sarah Finch and Steven Newton: lost contact in snow

By GILLIAN HARRIS AND STEPHEN FARRELL

THE young couple buried beneath an avalanche in the Highlands yester-day told how they lay unable to move for 16 hours, not knowing if the other was alive or dead.

Sarah Finch, 25, and her boyfriend, Steven Newton, 24, from Dartford. Kent, were recovering from mild hy-pothermia in Fort William yesterday. Four friends died in the avalanche on Aonach Mor on Tuesday. Their guide, Roger Wild, survived.

Miss Finch said their group of Ven-ture Scout leaders had stopped 2,000st up the mountain while the guide checked the route ahead. "The

snow came from behind us. It knocked us off our feet and then what seemed to be a second wave of snow covered our heads. The next thing I remember is being trapped in almost a block of ice with just a small little space which I dug out to breathe.
"As far as I could remember I was

shouting all night but the rescue team said I was so deep that even when they were digging me out they couldn't hear me. I heard somebody shouting. I didn't know who it was, but I now know it was Steve. I heard Roger shouting right at the very end when the rescue team was digging us

For Mr. Newton it was the second lucky escape. In 1990 his sailing boat storm, prompting his parents last night to say that he had led a 'charmed life".

Describing the avalanche, he said: "I remember waking up and not being able to move any of my limbs: panicking because I am claustrophobic and I had snow all around me in a tiny space. I thrashed my head around and managed to enlarge the space, and throughout the night I slowly managed to get one arm out and then the other.

"I found an ice are in the snow which I used to my and dig my way out. Towards the end of the night I managed to get a hole to the surface and tried to drag myself out but my

feet loose at all. I tried shouting during the night and I did hear a female voice. I couldn't decide if it was Sarah."

Mr Newton said: "I was overwhelmed at getting out, not having known if there would be another wave of snow coming down while I was trapped there. It was so frustrating at the time as I had dug my way to the surface and just could not get out to start digging for other people. I just had to lie there and wait." Asked if he would embark on a sim-

llar exercise again, he said: "It will take quite a while to come to terms with what has happened and the loss of our good friends."

The three survivors were expected

to spend one more night in hospital. Miss Finch, an embryologist, sufferca injuries to her elbow, leg, ankle and a finger and Mr Newton, a transmissions engineer, injured his left

Brian Tregaskis, a consultant physician at Fori William Hospital, said: They are extremely lucky individuals. Their physical injuries are at a

Mr Wild said in a statement: "My main thoughts are with the bereaved families. I am very pleased that two of the group have survived and would like to thank the rescue team and the medical services for their prompt and professional actions, which undoubtedly saved our lives."

Father tells of vain fight to save sea boy

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A FATHER told yesterday of how he fought for 314 hours to keep his nine-year-old son alive in icy waters after their boat sank during their first fishing trip together, only for the boy to die at hospital.

Jonathan Vowles and two friends sang and cuddled the boy, Lewis, while they trod water, waiting to be rescued. Despite their efforts, Lewis slipped in and out of consciousness and died in hospital of hypothermia.

Mr Vowles, 35, told his family from his hospital bed: "We did everything we could. The water was very cold and weknew we had to keep Lewis

7 hugged and cuddled him and we took it in turns to lift him clear of the water. We sang songs to him and whenever he looked like falling asleep we shook him and slapped his face to keep him awake."

Mr Vowles had bought his son a fishing rod for Christ-mas and had promised to take him out to sea. The boy, who elder sister in Brighton, had spent Christmas with his father and his second wife at their home at Tonyrefail in

south Wales.

His grandfather, Harry

Vowles, said yesterday. Lewis
had been looking forward to it



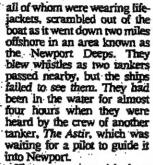
Lewis Vowles: died on his first fishing trip

all over Christmas and could . talk about nothing else." Lewis and his father set off

on their expedition as soon as the weather improved after Christmas. They made the 20 mile trip to the harbour at Penarth, near Cardiff, with their friends, Steve Buck, 19. and Kevin Gardner, 32, the owner of their 16-foot, boat Heien Marie.

The party had been fishing for Just hours when Mr Yow-les rang his wife, Jane, on his calling it a day. Mr Vowles said: "Five min-

utes later a hole suddenly appeared in the boat as if we had struck something. The boat sank so quickly we couldn't get off an emergency flare." The three men and the boy,



The group were picked up by an inshore lifeboat, then winched aboard an RAF helicopter. Lewis was unconscious when he was taken to Cardiff Royal Infirmary. His father and friends were treated for hypothermia at the University Hospital of Wales. Cardiff.

Coastguards said that the group was well equipped with life-jackets and whistles, but that the slightly built nineyear-old stood little chance in such cold water. . A report on the accident is

being compiled for the Cardiff Coroner Dr Lawrence Addicott, and an inquiry by the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau is also undet w Chief Inspector Paul Kemp, of South Wales Police, de-

We are still trying to recover the boat from the waters to examine it to discover how it capsized," he said.



After, at a trim 9st 3th, Mrs Miles can now go clothes shopping with her daughter



Before: Beverley Miles weighed in at 24st 11lb

Fear of death led woman to lose 15st

By Russell Jenkins

BEVERLEY MILES is an inspiration to anyone resolving to slim down to a fighting weight in the new year. She has lost 15 stone in two years. The 35-year-old mother from Great Sankey, Cheshire. once weighed 25 stone and

32-plus range. Now she is officially a size 10 - petite. Mrs Miles has enjoyed the most dramatic weight loss among five finalists in the Slimming magazine slimmer of the year award.

ped for clothes in

that I have been given a second chance at life. The quality of my life has improved tremendously. I can now go to aerobic classes with my 15-year-old daughter Tina and shop for clothes in the same

TWO VEALS ARD IT WAS VER different. At almost 15 stone overweight, it is no surprise I constantly thought about dying."
Mrs Miles, who is only 5ft

4in tall, weighed 24st 11lb.

Now she tips the scales at a

BAGPUSS, the saggy old cloth cat, has been declared the alltime favourite children's programme in a national poll.

More than 40,000 BBC viewers cast their votes by post, telephone or e-mail to affirm their love for the cuddly pink and yellow striped cat, ahead of shows including The Magic Roundabout, Bill and Ben and Play School.

Bagpuss made his debut in 1974 as part of Watch With Mother. Only 13 episodes were made by Smallfilms, which also made Noggin the Nog Bagouss told stories with friends including Professor Yaffle the woodpecker and the mice from the Mouse Organ.

Lorraine Heggessey, head of BBC Children's Production, said: "It is always programmes. we watched when we were youngest that have a special place in our hearts. Bagpuss is a favourite with today's twenty-somethings and it's great to see that they are just as keen to . wallow in nostalgia as the rest

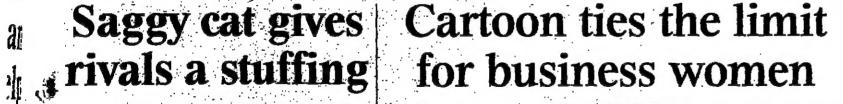


Bagpuss's career lasted for only 13 episodes

of us." Bagpuss will be declared the winner on BBCl today during Are You Sitting Comfortably?, a tribute to children's programmes.

The video for Michael Jack-

son's 1983 hit Thriller, in which he became a werewolf. has been voted best pop video of all time. Nearly 100,000 people voted in the poll, held by the cable television channel VHI. | said unsuitable appearance at



By JOANNA BALE

MEN who wear ties decorated with pictures of cartoon characters may think they are expressing a wacky sense of humour but to their women colleagues they denote imma-turity and bad taste. According to a survey of 300

women delegates at conference centres around Britain, a knot of pure silk with a subtle geometric pattern is far prefer-able to a garish slash of stainresistant polyester featuring novelty sheep.

Top of the hate list were Disney characters such as Mick-

ey Mouse and Donald Duck, followed by the comic book hero Dennis the Menace and the animated Plasticine duo Wallace and Gromit. A resounding 81 per cent of the female managers surveyed said choice of tie was an important factor when it came to making first impressions with clients, while 74 per cent



Knotty problem: women were unimpressed

work would lessen chances of

In spite of their dubious merits, novelty ties continue to be big sellers in thousands of stores, from the high street retail chain Tie Rack to the designer emporium Hermes.

The department store John Lewis found them to be such a money-spinner that they com-

missioned an extensive range

under their own brand Jonelle featuring animals such as pigs, flamingoes, and vegetables, priced at £12.50. A spokeswoman said: "They sell very well, particularly in our London stores. There are obviously thousands of men out there who love to brighten up their suits with them." The French designer Hermes, which makes silk

ties featuring animals and trees for a cool £65, also declared them to be top sellers. Fabienne Kozel at the New Bond Street store in London

said: "Last year was our Year of Africa, so we had ties featurng animals such as elephants, giraffes and zebras, which were top sellers. This year is the Year of the Tree, so we have trees, which

are also popular. Next year is the Year of the Galaxy, so we will have moons and stars. They are nothing like cartoon ties - they are very recognisable as Hermes."

Explosives used to recover body

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE body of a potholer trapped underground for more than 17 hours was recov-

ered yesterday. Peter Fowler, 45, an experienced caver, collapsed unconscious in a narrow passage about 50ft down. Twenty volunteers, including mine rescue teams, police divers and fire crews, worked through the night in an attempt to bring

him to the surface. Explosives were used to widen the narrow gap to reach Mr Fowler, who could be seen by rescuers, while cavers used hand chisels to chip away rocks. They worked on even when it was clear that the man

had died. Mr Fowler and another potholer had been exploring caves above the River Taff near Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales when Mr Fowler blacked out.

His fellow caver went to the surface to raise the alarm.



out in parrow tunnel

West Brecon cave rescue team member, Gary Evans, said: "We had to use every method we could think of because there was very little room to move and conditions were extremely muddy."

A post-mortem examination is to be carried out next week by a Home Office pathologist. although police suspect he died from natural causes.

Man killed at son's wedding

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

BRIDEGROOM'S father was hit and killed by a car as he videotaped his son's wedding reception in the village of Over Alderley. Cheshire.
David Swift, 54, a retired lecturer, from Witley, Surrey.

was trying to find a good angle from which to film his son Robert, 25, and his bride. Rebecca. 28, leave for their honeymoon. He stepped back into the Macclesfield Road with the camera to his eye as the wedding party emerged from a restaurant. and was hit by a car. More than 20 guests, includ-

ing his wife, Jane, saw the accident. One of the wedding party, a nurse, and a passing para-medic tried to administer first aid but Mr Swift was pro-Macclesfield District General Hospital.

Inspector Paul Jennings, of Cheshire police, said that no charges had been laid over the

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of this

1968 WAS THE YEAR THAT.

moved last customs barriers.

Seven-sided 50p coin replaced

first black life peer

| Flicherd Nixon elected President of

United States.

The Beatles set up Apple cou

interes set up Apple conique, a £100,000 psychedelic shop in London's West End.

New legislation stemmed flow of
Asian immigrants from East Africa.

Violent anti-Vietnam War demonstrations in London.

strations in London.

Southeast England hit by wors

floods since 1953.

Two-tier post introduced first

class and second class

First Brisish heart transplant at Nasional Heart Hospital, Marylebone, by

Minister reached such heights

Wade historic win

at the US Open

AND IN THE ARTS...

Cacil Day Lewis became Poet Laureste, a post vacant since death of John Massefield in 1967.

The musical Hair premiered in Britan, after abolition of stage censorship by the Lord Chamberlain.

The Forsyte Saga drew huge audiences for the new BBC2.

Till Death Do Us Part (BBC) was the most popular television show with 15.1 million viewers.

the most popular letevision show wair 15.1 million viewers.

At the Oscers, Kathanne Hepbum (The Lion in Winter) and Barbre Stresand (Funny Girl) shared the best actress award. Oliver! was best film.

Alexander Sotzhenisyn's novels smuggled out of Russia.

Best-selling albums included Sergeon Panner's Lonely Hearts Club

geant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Delilah by Tom Jones. Ogden's Nut Gone Flake by the Small

Faces, Val Doonloan Rocks Me.Gen-

tty, The Sound of Music, Bookends by Simon and Garfunkel, and Love Andy

D Britain won five gold medals at the

Olympic Games in Mexico.

If England and Yorkshire tast bowler
"liery" Fred Truemen announced his

U Virginia Wade beat Billie Jean King

El Tony Jacklin became first English

gotter to win a tournament on the US tour. — the Jacksonville Open — for

by Andy Walliams.

SPORT

learn led by Donald Ross. ☐ Reggie and Ronnie Kray arrested. ☐ Jackie Kennedy became Jackie

Brown letter drove Wilson to 17 drafts

Newly released papers throw light on Labour's troubles 30 years ago. Reports by Valerie Elliott

HAROLD WILSON was so bitter about the way George Brown quit his Government that it took 17 drafts before he could agree the traditional prime ministerial letter produced when ministers resign.

A document released today under the 30-year rule shows the many deletions and hesitations by Wilson about what he could properly say about his former Foreign Secretary. Animosity had been build-

ing between the two and, amid a gold and sterling crisis, the fi-nal straw for Brown was the discovery that he had been excluded from a Privy Council meeting on the night of March 14, 1968, that agreed to order an immediate bank holiday to stem losses in gold and to freeze dealings on the foreign exchanges. News of the meet-ing, held at Buckingham Palace, reached Brown at the Commons: he met colleagues to discuss the development. Wilson was furious that Brown had held such "an irreg-

ular meeting" outside the Cabinet. An emergency Cabinet was called at 1.15am. Cabinet committee minutes released today show that Wilephone. In the end the meeting had gone ahead with just the Prime Minister, Roy Jenkins, the Chancellor, and Peter

Shore, Economic Affairs Secretary, who made up a quorum. The secret conclave incensed Brown, who believed it was symptomatic of Wilson's style of government.

Anthony Crosland, President of the Board of Trade also objected, saying that other economic ministers should have been included. Shore accepted that the episode showed the secrecy of the Treasury.

Brown would not allow the discussion to move on and insisted he had never been out of telephone reach. He accused Wilson of handling the crisis

"with great arrogance".
But Wilson defended his action, saying the full economic picture had not been made clear to him until Ilpm. Brown hit back that Wilson and Jenkins "had acted by themselves and on their own authority".

Michael Stewart, then First Secretary of State, rebuked Brown and Crosland and said the situation "was too serious for ministers to waste time arguing about procedure".



Wilson: row over emergency meeting

cused Wison of "trying to cover up a monumental muddle". He then departed from the Cabinet, Crosland said that nobody could blame him for his action but Wilson found it unacceptable that Brown had doubted his word about attempts to contact him.

Brown, who had long been threatening to quit, wanted his exit to be memorable. In his resignation letter he publicly criticised Wilson's style of gov-ernment: "The events of last night and this morning have brought to a head a really seri-ous issue which has, as you know, been troubling me for some time. It is, in short, the way the Government is run and the manner in which we reach our decisions."

read: "I cannot agree that the events ... justify the general conclusion you seek to draw from them."

He also suggested that other Cabinet ministers were "unanimous" with the decisions taken. But, given that four of the Cabinet had expressed con-cern. Wilson deleted the line. Further attempts were more conciliatory: "You refer to the events of last night. As you know the most strenuous ef-

forts were made to get in touch with you at a critical phase so that you could be brought fully into the picture." Again Wilson had second thoughts, crossed out "most strenuous efforts" and wrote "I tried unsuccessfully to get in touch with you."
Yet this was clearly too personal for Wilson after the man-

ner of Brown's departure. In the end he wrote: "unsuccessful efforts were made to get in touch with you".

In an early version he also wrote: "It is a matter of great regret to me that you now feel unable to continue in the Government." But he authorised a subtle change. "I am sorry that your feelings about what happened last night have made you decide that you cannot continue to hold office in the Government."

Wilson even hesitated over whether to praise Brown for



George Brown, for whom the euphemism "tired and emotional" was coined

Minister quit over 'that bitch' **Barbara Castle**

DETAILS of the resignation of Ray Gunter, Harold Wilson's minister of power, reveal 'extraordinary tensions and class warfare that were rife inside the Cabinet.

Mr Gunter quit as a minister in a late-night telephone call to Mr Wilson at Chequers, claiming he could not stand "the middle-class bastards" inside the Cabinet.

His main target however was "that bitch" Barbara now Baroness - Castle who had been given a version of his old job as Minister for Labour in a reshuffle three months before. He could not understand why she had landment had built up. Last night Lady Castle was not available to comment on the acrimony. Mr Gunter, one of the lesser-known ministers of the Wil-

son era, spoke frankly to the PM in a highly emotional call at Ilpm on June 29 which was listened into and noted by the Downing Street Duty Clerk. The nature of his bitterness is recorded for the first time in new files at the public record

Mr Gunter told Wilson he was walking out of the Govroment "to fight against the bloody middle class and intellectuals within the Cabinet". A South Wales valleys boy

with strong union links - he was the only minister on strike in 1966 — be hated the government's approach to the Nationalised Industries and

Still hankering after his old job, he did not think Mrs Castle was doing it properly and he could not stomach this."

His mood had no doubt blackened throughout the day. He had tried to resign at 10am that morning but Wilson refused to accept it. But conversing through the duty clerk, he was adamant he would not stay on in the post and refused to go and see the Prime Minister at Chequers.

The duty clerk recorded that Gunter spoke "in a brusque, almost strangled

Wilson asked if they could Gunter said there was no friendship. He accused Wilson of destroying the Ministry of Labour and of destroying him, of "kicking him hard" and of suspecting him of leaks. "You suspect me! Torture mel he railed and said he wanted to know why he had been kicked out of his job.

Gunter said he intended "going back to the people whence I came", adding where the miners are, the shunters are and the railwaymen are, that is where I am". Wilson told him to have a stiff drink and sleep on it but he reigned the next day.

Publicly Gunter made no reference of his disagreement with Wilson but he told reporters "they will be asking who the hell I am in ten years



not seek and I will not accept the norm ination of my party as President." Lyn "As I look shead, I am filled with foreboding. Like the Roman, Lisem-to see the River Their foarglog with much blood," Snoch Powel.

when there is no more nusic in them." Louis Ameltonic I "It is unbecoming for a cartinal to ski badly." Rope John Raul II. That us begin by committing our selves to the truth, to see it like it is to speak the truth and five with the truth. That's what we'll do." Richard Nixon's acceptance speech for presidential nomination

☐ Lisa Marie Pi ☐ Jay Kay ☐ David Batty ☐ Damon Alba

☐ Robert Kenned ☐ Martin Luther Kind

Gunter resented his job going to Castle in Cabinet shuffle Plus ça change in politics

BY PHOLP HOWARD

BEHIND the public face of government lie paranoia, se-crecy, malice and panic. They always have. And the public Labour was much the same as new Labour (and Conserva-tives of whatever age) in its cro-nies and class warriors, with

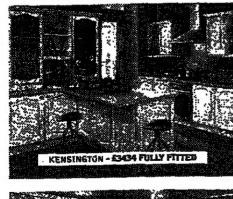
their vendenas and projects.
So we overhear Ray Gunter grumbling about "middle class bastards" in the Cabinet, anticipating Johri Major on some of his colleagues. Gunter also called Barbara Castle
"that bitch". His observations
were gratifyingly provided to
posterity not by a television mi-

was off the record, but by the official telephone exchange. That summer the Govern-

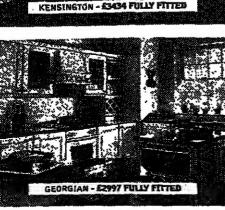
ment dreaded a second devalu-ation, which would have finished it. We hear of Operation Brutus, a plan (devised, of course, by economists) to prevent Britans from holidaying abroad, and to stop French wines being imported. George Brown walked out of the Cabinati in a fit of of net in a fit of pique, and the Prime Minister was so terri-fied at the threat to his Government that he made 17 drafts of the customarily disingenuous letter accepting resignation. It was the high tide of the and protests against the Vietnam War. The Archbishop of Canterbury opined that the Remembrance Day parade had seemed such peaceniks that Dr Ramsey suggested a service of universal penitence.

The human weaknesses behind stately facades should be no surprise. They have made rattling good faction from Sir Humphrey Appleby to Dick-ens. In his own version of Opmade immortal the mixture be tween public statesmanship and private folly. It comes as Caesars are like the rest of us.





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ENDS

SUNDAY

5_{PM}

Queen saved Remembrance Day Argentina was almost

The Queen blocked a Church plan to make Remembrance Day less militaristic. At a time of Ban the Bomb slogans, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Michael Ramsey, argued that many people found the Cenoraph service "distasteful" and that the young were not "parade minded".

ANY INVIANTA

 $M_{em_{0\eta_{i}}}$

are mad

In the year that marked the 50th anniversary of the Armistice, he suggested a new multifaith service dedicated to peace and self-sacrifice in all walks of life "and not only in the battlefield". He wanted to include an eleValerie Elliott on moves to abolish wreaths and military involvement

ment of penatence for national short- better weather than November can comings that had contributed to the world's troubles.

In a confidential report to James Callaghan, then Home Secretary, he also suggested that it was time to change the name of the service and said that the date and the llam silence should be up for debate. The confidential report noted: There is something to be said for a day when

be expected, and at a time when more people can act concertedly than at Ham." All the wreath laying, except by the Queen, would also be cut out...

The move was immediately opposed by the Queen who believed the public would be unhappy and not understand such a change. Phillip Allen. Mr Callaghan's private secre-tary, reported: "For those of Her subjects (and they are still numerous) for whom it has a meaning, it stands, She believes, purely as the annual public recognition of those who gave their lives for their country in the two great wars of this century."

He added that the Queen accepted there may come a time when the ceremony had little public interest and "is inclined to think that when that time arrives it might be well to consider abandoning it altogether". The offi-cial believed that the Queen's opposition, probably shared by Commonwealth countries, made the Archbishop's plan impossible.

The Prime Minister was even more forceful. In a note scribbled in green ink on a Downing Street briefing paper, Mr Wilson wrote: "We should have to have strong evidence of a desire for change - since any variation, especially omissions (eg wreath lay-ing) might cause heart-burnings and the feeling that we were 'forgetting'."

And the chargé d'affaires played on

IT WAS a classic example of British stiff upper lip. Outside the Beijing mission an angry mob was baying for blood. In-side Donald Hopson, the charge d'affaires, and his staff were playing bridge and sipping clares.

It was August 1967, during the Cultural Revolution, and the Chinese Government had summoned Hopson to demand the release of Chinese journalists imprisoned in Hong Kong and the lifting of bans of three

communist newspapers. Hopson refused. In a memorandum to the Foreign Office recounting the events that followed, he recorded his sense of foreboding. "I took the oppor-tunity to put the signed photograph of the Queen, as well as portraits of my wife and daughter, into the safety of the strong-room," he wrote.

The next evening the mission — with eighteen men and five women inside — was beseiged by a mob of thousands. Sir Donald organised a rub-ber of bridge while other staff watched a Peter Sellers film. Eventually the crowd broke

The Wrong Arm of the Law. through and the staff were subjected to assaults and humiliation before being taken to the safety of the international dipiomatic compound. There was, Hopson noted, one saving grace: The signed photograph of the Queen ... sur-vived, though slightly singed."

given the Falklands

Harold Wilson was prepared to give up the Falkland Islands to Argentina and proposed a 20-year transition. The two governments came close to agreement in secret talks in 1968 but they foundered because of the intransigence of the 2,000 inhabitants. One idea was for Welsh communities in Patagonia to be enlisted in a publicity campaign to promote the virtues of life under Argentine rule. George Brown, the Foreign Secretary, made clear that nothing could proceed without a referendum of islanders. Without one. Britain said it would be for Argentina to persuade the islanders of the advantages. The transition period was intended "to be long enough to allow the elder generation to disappear from the scene". Younger islanders were said to be more receptive.

CND 'communist threat'

The Government was warned by MI5 that communist agitators were planning to infiltrate the annual CND Aldermaston march after the Grosvenor Square riots in 1968. Documents show the deep fears triggered within the Establishment by violent anti-Vietnam war protests that March in Grosvenor Square. There was a widespread fear that the next catalyst for "revolutionary" violence would be the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmamen's Easter march on the Aldermaston weapons plant, even though the event had no history of violence.

Lords reform blocked

Tony Blair was not the first Labour Prime Minister to face a struggle to reform the House of Lords — and William Hague was not the first Tory leader to have difficulties with his own peers on the issue. Harold Wilson — who was engaged in delicate negotiations with Tory peers to avoid a lengthy constitutional battle — was so concerned about leaks that he called in MIS. He became so exasperated with what he saw as a deliberate attempt by Tories in the upper house to bring down his Govern-ment that he contemplated abolishing the Lords altogether.

Rivers of blood' fears

The Government feared that Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech on immigration would undermine race relations but Sir Elwyn Jones, the Attorney-General, decided within four days of the May 1968 address that the Conservative MP should not be prosecuted. Cabinet disliked the extreme views of Powell, right, but noted: "Unless the fimmigrant influx can be greatly reduced there will be a very real risk that our efforts to create a multiracial society ... will fail."



Police wanted cover-up

Harold Wilson's private secretary raised fears that the Prime Minister's security was threatened by the ministirt. Such was the climate of fear after the assassination of Robert Kennedy that No 10 expressed concern that police patrolling Downing Street could not keep their eyes off the mini-clad girls who walked near St James's Park. Skirts were so short that eyen dry cleaners cashed in, charging twopence an inch for cleaning. Se-curity men also banned Wilson from installing a colour television in his Commons office, fearing that it could be bugged.

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British cities faced 20,000 Hiroshimas

RUSSIAN atomic weapons targeted at Britain during the Cold War had 20,000 times the capability of nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima, intelligence documents brought to light under the 30-year rule reveal.

The "top secret" documents marked for your eyes only were accepted by ministers and defence chiefs as realistic assumptions for emergency planning. London would have taken the brunt of a nuclear attack with eight megatons of weaponry directed at the Government's control centres such as the Ministry of Defence.

Glasgow, Birmingham and Liverpool would also have suffered huge destruction with four megatons of missiles di-rected at each city. The govern-ment satellite "spy" listening centre, GCHQ, was also ex-pected to be a prime target for the soviets who had a two meg-aton missile directed towards

the Gloucestershire town. A total of 389 megatons of Soviet nucelar weaponry was targeted at Britain. In comparison, 20 kilotons were dropped

on Hiroshima.
The cities listed as most vulnerable for attack were Car-diff, Manchester, Southamp-ton, Leeds, Newcastle, Brisfol, Sheffield, Swansea, Hull, Middlesbrough, Coventry, Wolver-4 Vhampton. Leicester, Stoke-on-

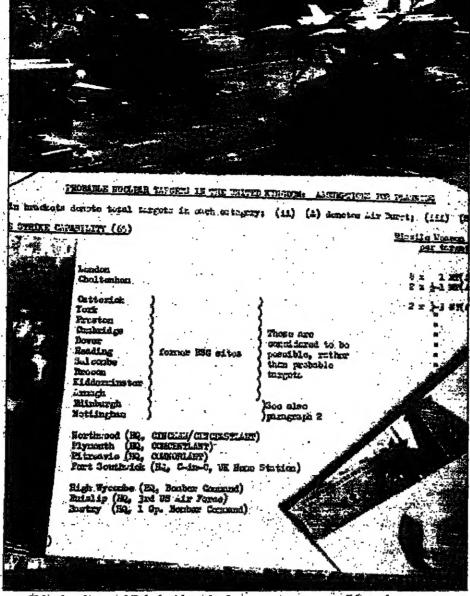
Trent, Belfast, Edinburgh and Nottingham. All RAF bomber bases and communication centres were also key targets, as were Polaris submarine bases.

Within a few months of the secret intelligence being circulated to military commanders, the Foreign Office took action to curb the spying activities of staff at the Russian Embassy in London. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, told Harold Wilson on September 28, 1968, that the numbers of Soviet diplomats had risen from 64 to 80 in four years, of which 62

A third of the 95 non-diplomatic staff were also known to be intelligence officers and the Soviet trade delegation had 28 spies out of 180 staff. Britain had only 40 diplomats in

Wilson gave orders to freeze the Soviet numbers after one of his officials noted on Mr Stewart's top-secret report: These figures are truly mon-

O The sending of Christmas cards to Russia was threat-ened by the invasion of Czecho-slovakia in 1968. Michael Stewart, the Foreign Secretary, fa-voured crossing their leader, Alexei Kosygin, off the list but was overruled by Harold Wil-son, who said: "It seems petty. We have not broken off diplomatic relations."



Cities, bombers and Polaris submarine bases were among possible nuclear targets

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You start with the highest strength patch and then you step down to a lower strength patch, and finally to the lowest strength of all - 'till you are free of the need' (if you smoke less than 10 cigarettes a day you start with the middle strength).

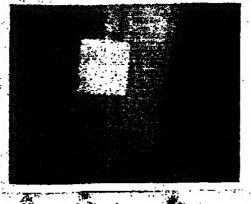


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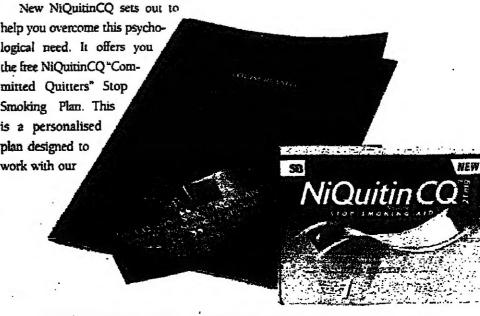


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Whelan truly lost in the big mole hunt



Looking for the right Charlie: Allardyce yesterday

Jason Allardyce finds the high road is a cold trail in the aftermath of Mandelson

THE SPIN-DOCTOR who prides himself on being just a mobile phone call away from journalists was last night suc-cessfully evading a press man-hunt in the Scottish High-

Charlie Whelan, blamed by

Downing Street for leaking de-tails of the financial relation-

ship between Peter Mandel-

son and Geoffrey Robinson

which led to the ministers' downfall, is believed to be walking in the Cairngorms almost a formight after disap-pearing off the political radar. Scotland's biggest-selling daily newspaper, the Daily Record, carried a "wanted" poster offering a free flight to Whitehall for a drink in Mr Whelan's local, The Red Lion. But people living where clan chiefs and Jacobite rebels fought to decide how their country should be governed, have so far failed to turn him in. The last reported sighting

few more scrupulous than the of Mr Whelan at Westminster was on Thursday, December 17, four days before the story Chancellor's press secretary at since the start of the Mandelbroke about Geoffrey Robinson affair, hundreds of mes-sages left on his radio pager have gone unanswered. Call-ers are told: "Charlie Whelan son's £373,000 home loan to Peter Mandelson. The former Communist was spotted in the evening in the press-gallery bar, drinking his trademark white-wine spritzers. is unavailable until the fourth of January." His mobile phone

CALRIGORM MOUNTAINS

That was also the day that Mr Mandelson, then Trade and industry Secretary, alerted Downing Street and the Whitehall machine that the story was about to blow. Since then, the usually ubiquitous Mr Whelan has vanished, first going to ground in London and then apparently retreating to Scotland with friends. In calmer times, there are

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is turned off. Some friends suggested that he was more likely to be away from the Cairngorms and delighting in the notion of reporters scouring the Highlands for him. "He'll probably turn up next week and declare that he's been somewhere else the whole time," said a friend who had not been in contact with him for more than a week.

Another source close to the Chancellor said that he believed Mr Whelan had been unfairly fingered for the leak, that no minister's camp was "perfect", and that he had been in the Cairngorms around Christmas but was probably elsewhere now. Another suggestion is that Mr Brown sheltered the embattled assistant at his own home in Queensferry for a spell to help keep him out of the public eye.

A spokesman for the Treasury said that Mr Whelan had left London last Tuesday for Scotland, as he had last year. His paging message simply stated that he would be una-

vailable until January 4. Anyone climbing the treacherous hills of the Cairgorns normally leaves details of any climbing routes with the local police but there was no record of Mr. Whelan. Car-hire companies in Inverness. Aberdeen and Edinburgh also drew a plank. There are more than 100 hotels in the Carrigorms and hundreds more holiday cottages. Aviemore was bustling with New Year revellers last night but there was no

sign of Mr Whelan. At the Red McGregor Hotel. written note that it was compa ny policy for local staff not to speak to journalists. Drinkers there had mixed views of Mr Whelan but most believed he had acted fairly if he had indeed "done the dirty" on Mr Mandelson. "We need more down to earth people like that in the Government," said one.

y plead i

The trail appeared to hot up near Kincraig, a small Speyside village near the still waters of Loch Insh. At the village's Watersports Centre, six miles south of Aviemore, the manager Clive Freshwater confirmed that a Mr Whelan had been staying in a £600-a-week chalet there since

Wednesday. It was the same hideaway where Sir Michael Hirst went in 1997 upon resigning as presi-dent of the Scottish Conservative Party after he believed that allegations about his private life were going to be published in a newspaper.

Unfortunately the occupant was a Mr Mark Whelan, who was nothing like the man the Daily Record, except that he was unavailable. Mr Freshwater. 59, is a fan of Peter Mandelson as a man who like Margaret Thatcher "got things done and helped business".

As temperatures dipped, the trail ran as cold as the Cairn



Whelan: friends say he may enjoy the hunt



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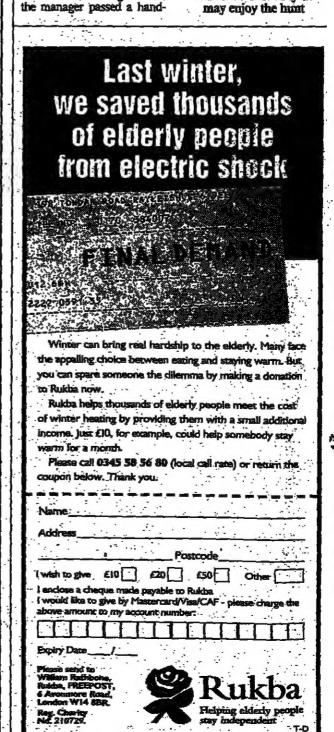
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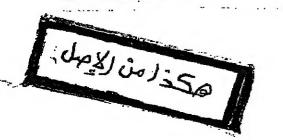
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Detective Sergeant Bryan Redshaw with the Bramleys' car, which was found in York. Right: the children's coats

New lead in search for fugitive parents

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

POLICE are hoping that the discovery of a car belonging toa runaway couple who van-ished with their two foster daughters will be a breakthrough in their hunt.

Detectives have been searching for Jeffrey Bramley, 34, and his wife, Jennifer, 35, since they disappeared from their home in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, four months ago with Jade Bennett, 5, and her sister. Hannah, 3.

The couple, who had been turned down as permanent adoptive parents of the two children, vanished on the day they were due to hand them

over to social services. They are believed to have been wandering between holi-day resorts, bed and breakfast



Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley: withdrew all their savings

spite of widespread publicity. including a major appeal on the BBC's Crimewatch UK. there have been no confirmed

The car was discovered last hotels and caravan sites. In Tuesday when a member of

er documentation. It had been parked at the spot for five

Detective Sergeant Mark Ni-cholson, of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said: "Af-ter nearly four months we have finally had a major break-through in our search for this

"We will now be closely ex-amining the vehicle and hope its recovery will give us further clues as to where the fami-

"The area where the vehicle was found is made up of a mix of residential homes and bed and breakfast and guest house accommodation. The family, of course, could still be in the area and we would urge any-



Jade Bennett, left, and her sister, Hannah, have been missing for four months. Police fear for their wellbeing

health and educational needs

were not being met.

which has four new tyres, may have had work carried out on it at a garage in the York area. "We would like to appeal to owners of bed and breakfast accommodation and also to commuters. The vehicle was found a short distance from the railway station," Sergeant

who have no children of their own, were hoping to adopt the two girls.

They had been caring for them since March and last September they learnt that social workers had decided they skills" to adopt the girls permanently. Such is the level of conbeen reports of sightings in Norfolk, Sussex, Buckingham-shire and the Irish Republic cern about the children's wellbeing that Mrs Justice Hogg, of the High Court's family divibut none have been consion, made a public appeal for help in November, saying that

Police said that the Bramleys had withdrawn their savings before vanishing and believe that they may soon run

Army finds proof of weaker sex

BY OUR MEDICAL: CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN soldiers are at least three times more likely than men to suffer stress fractures during basic fitness training. according to a study published today in the British Medical

The report's authors, from-Gosport, Hampshire, noticed a fourfold increase in referrals for injuries between 1994 and 1996 and wondered if it had anything to do with the De-fence Ministry's equal opportu-nities policy introduced in 1993 which subjected women to the same rigorous exercise as

They studied bone scans of all the recruits from the Army Training Regiment in Winchester. Hampshire, referred in 1995-97 and found 4.2 per cent of men suffered stress fractures compared with 14.2 per cent of women.

Migraines triple young women's risk of a stroke

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG women who suffer from migraines are 3½ times more at risk of a stroke. The danger increases if they smoke, take oral contraceptives or have high blood

cliffe infirmary at Oxford and the Imperial College, London, School of Medicine studied the cases of 291 women aged 20 to 44 who had suffered a stroke. They found that among 40 per-cent of patients with a history-of migraine, the stroke oc-curred during a migraine

They also found that a family history of migraine, irrespec-tive objective the patient suf-fered from it, increased the risk on a stroke. A quarter of the women who had a stroke suffered from migraine and another 26 per cent had some

one in their family with the condition. In women with a prior history of migraine, up to 73 per cent had a headache within three days before the stroke, compared with 31 per cent of women who had never

the public called police to re-

port the vehicle abandoned

near his bome in the Scarcroft

Hill district of York. The Hon-

number G152SHR, contained

Concerto, registration

The study, published in the British Medical Journal, says that oral contraceptives were already known to be an independent risk factor for strokes, especially among women over 35 who smoke or have a history of hypertension. The link with those who also suffer from migraine has not previously been noted.

Low-dose oestrogen pills were safer than those with a higher dose but the researchers say that it was not possible to calculate accurately the interaction between the contraceptives and a stroke.

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New Year honours

The following details were omitted from the New Year's Honours list details in some editions of The Times yester-

CBE: G N Phipson, headmas-ter West Hatch HS, Essex, serv-ices to the Assn of Headneachers of Grant Maintained Schools.

of Grant Maintained Schools:

MBE: A Hutchison, lately Principal lighthouse keeper, Fair Isle (South) Lighthouse, Orkney, services to marine safety; Mary-Grace, Lady Hutchison, services to the Community in Melton, Suffolk; Sister M K Hyland; services to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, R G Ingall, services to deal people in Lincolnshire; C A Inger, senior messenger, Home Office; B Ingle, boxing trainer, St Thomas Boxing club, Shefield, services to disadvantaged young people and to boxing; M young people and to boxing: M E Ingle, services to Anglo/Japa-nese trade links: Mrs M A Ironside, services to the fostering of children on Guernsey; Mrs C A Cockerill, services to the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in Cam-bridgeshire: Mrs D Cocketi, services to the Friends of St Tho-mas' Hospital, London.

CORRECTIONS

An article (November 25) implied criticism of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairy for his failure to back away from the Queen after pre-senting to her the speech at the state opening of Parliament. The proposal to cease the practice of stepping backwards from the throne was made by the Queen herself.

The Munich agreement was in September 1938, not 1936 as incorrectly stated in a report (December 3). The then Lord Cranborne had at that time already left the Government, having resigned the previous February, together with Anthony Eden, over the appeasement of Mussolini.



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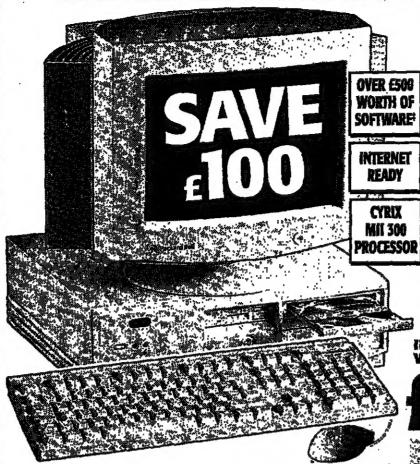
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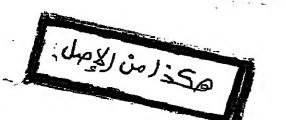
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Hostages forced to change their stories

Daniel McGrory in Aden reports on claims that a Yemeni 'whitewash'

seeks to absolve soldiers of blame

ni hostage massacre to change suggestion that Yemeni troops ired the fatal shot

Laurence Whitehouse said that he had reluctantly altered his written statement after he and his fellow survivors had been interrogated for several

"I just want to take my wife. home to be buried. I don't care what version the Yemenis want to believe," he said.

But Mr Whitehouse dis-missed as "pure fiction" the finding of a post-mortem examination carried out in Aden yesterday that his wife, Marga-ret, had been shot at pointblank range by her captors. Other survivors also spoke of their disgust at the attempted whitewash" by their rescuers.

David Holmes, who was be-side Mrs Whitehouse during the shootout between their cap-tors and security forces, said that he had no doubt that the advancing troops shot her.
"The Yemenis are telling

complete and utter lies. And this was a shameful way to treat a man who has just lost. his wife," he said.

Before the nine British hostages began their journey home last night they were told to fill in questionnaires from the Yemeni secret police, which included evaluating the success of the rescue operation". Mr Whitehouse, 54, from Hook, Hampshire, said: "I wrote Four dead 12 survived.' It speaks for itself." Mr Whitehouse then had to

SECRET police vesterday wait his turn in the stiffing res-forced a survivor of the Yeme taurant of the hotel at which the survivors had been kept his testimony about how his for three days to be cross-comwife died in the bungled restined on his answers. He had cue attempt, to remove any written that when his wife fell to the ground with half her face torn away he had shouled to their captors. You have:

killed my wife." "The Yemenis liked that expression but I added the bullet could have been anybody's he said. "The colonel questioning me did not like that bit and asked me to

Mr Whitehouse was stand-ing with his hands in the air two yards from his wife, who was nursing Andrew Thirsk. another hostage, when Yemeni soldiers charged the ridge on which they were held at gunpoint as human shields. Trembling as he spoke, Mr

Whitehouse said: They shouldn't be using my wife's death as a political football. The culpability was the terrorists. They kidnapped us, they used us as human shields There can't be any greater

culpability than that.
The issue of who fired the bullet is irrelevant to the loss her pupils, her hundreds of friends feel. I have lost a wife of 27 years." Hussain Arab, Yemen's Inte-

tion Minister, insisted yesterday that the army was ordered in only after the Al-Jihad kidnappers threatened to execute a hostage every hour.

That contradicted the original claim by General Mohammad Saleh Turaik, Aden's security chief, that three of the captives were executed before the raid began. The hostages



A boy aged three was critically ill after falling from a van and being run over by the back wheels. Jake Lloyd was with his brother Jordan, 6, in the passenger seat when he opened the door. The van was driven by their cousin, David Weller, 20, who was returning the boys to their home in Reading after a family party. The boy was taken to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Police are to question Mr Weller and the injured boy's brother.

Death charge

Two men were remanded af-ter the death of a boy aged 7. hit by a stolen faxi in West Belfast Steven Sweeney, 25 and Paul McCusker, 27 were charged with hijacking and Sweeney alone with causing death by dangerous driving.

Omagh concert

The pop group Boyzone are to perform in Omagh this week-end in aid of victims of the bombing atrocity. Members of the chart-topping band will also meet survivors of the blast during their day long visit to the town tomorrow.

Last journey

A taxi driver and a wom passenger died when the vehicle was crushed by a lorry on the M25 in Buckinghamshire. The woman aged 34 was go-ing from Heathrow to spend New Year's Eve with family in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.

Ancient saddle

Archaeologists have found medieval saddle in a dig near the old city walls of Carlisle, Cumbria. The decorated leatherwork, believed to be about 500 years old, was well pre-served by the waterlogged ditch in which it was found.

£800,000 tome.

A famous 17th century book on flowers. The Moller Florilegium, which had been lost for nearly 150 years, is expected to fetch up to £800,000 at Christie's in London in March. It contains more than 200 flower paintings on veltum

Gecko discovery

A British student has discov ered a new species of gecko during a trip to the South Pa-cific. Julia Jones, 21, an ecology student at Cambridge University, found the 16cm-long lizard among rocks on Mont



telling complete lies"

threatened.

The general presided over the questioning of the survivors yesterday. He refused to accept a typed statement, agreed by all the survivors. which is believed to be critical of the rescue operation. An aide said that four hostages changed their statements under questioning to say that the terrorists fired first. When questioned by journalists, the group unanimously agreed

that the shooting was too far away to say who fired first. David Pearce. Britain's dep-

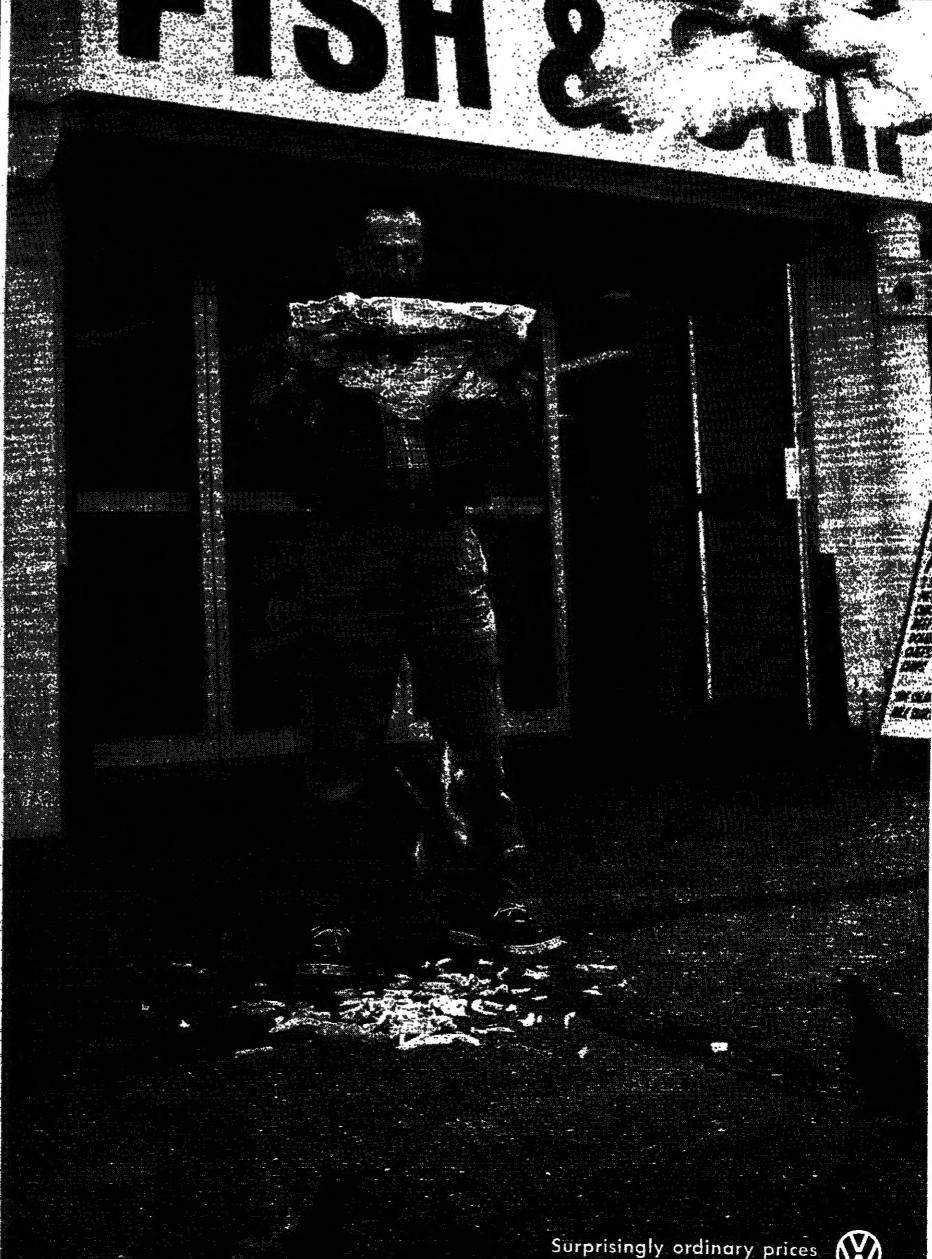
uty ambassador to Yemen, said: "We did not know they were going to use force. We were not consulted and we... would never have condoned that use of force." He said Britain was demanding to know why the raid was ordered, as well as a fair trial for the leader of the kidnappers. Abdul Hassan. An FBI investigator arrived in Aden yesterday amid reports that Al-Jihad was funded by Osama Bin Laden, the Sandi billionaire living in Afghanistan who was allegedly behind bombings at US embassies in Africa. Yemeni opposition leaders

claimed that the Government had known before the kidnapping that the 400-strong Al-Ji-had was running a terrorist training camp in the area but had done nothing.

Before leaving Aden the sur-vivors visited their injured friends, Margaret Thompson and Claire Marsion, whose husband, Peter Rowe, was killed.



Laurence Whitehouse, right, is comforted by Chris Cheeseman, a fellow survivor, as they leave Aden yesterday



Scientists keep an ear open for ET

BY NICK NUTTALL TECHNOLOGY ... CORRESPONDENT

THE most advanced search for intelligent alien life is to be launched by British and American scientists using the Jod-rell Bank radio telescope to screen out interference from the Earth's own radio and tele-

vision signals The scientists will be listening for signals in a band called the "water hole" which lies between 1,420 MHz and 1,600 MHz, or between the frequencies of hydrogen and oxygen. Like a water hole where dispa-rate animals gather, this is the area of frequency where aliens. could hope to communicate across the miles of space.

Previous searches have used a single radio telescope to listen for suitable signals. This has led to errors due to interference from spy planes and broadcasts on Earth. Now Jodrell Bank is linking with a Caribbean telescope to allow researchers to dismiss rogue signals more swiftly.

Ian Morison, the engineer

and radio astronomer co-ordinating the British end of the research, said that when the Arecibo dish in Puerto Rico picks up a suitable signal, it will be relayed to Jodrell Bank which will be listening on the same bit of sky from Cheshire.

If the signal is really interference from within our solar system, the exact same signal will be detected by both telescopes. If the signal is coming from a solar system far away, the frequency Jodrell Bank detects will be slightly different.
The two telescopes, whose

work is being funded by the privately backed Sen Institute in California, have made some preliminary searches. But the Arecibo telescope suffered some damage late last year as a result of Hurricane George.
The real work begins in March. Mr Morison said that he was keeping an open mind about possible findings.



PHILIPPE HUGUEN / MPP

EUROPE'S NEW CURRENCY

Bubbly and balloons for the EU baby

IN BRUSSELS

IN KEEPING with the seasonal spirit, a jolly cartoon stork was used by the European Union yesterday to herald the arrival of the baby euro, along with the new year.

But the Brussels ceremony smacked far more of a wedding, replete with champagne. emotion, forced speeches, poor iokes and a family spar. There was a nuptial feel

about the solemn yet testive manner in which ministers, the British ambassador, the Commission President and the Central Bank governor gathered in the pink granite palace of the EU Council to confer their collective blessing on monetary union.

After all the years of rehears-al, sacrifice and bickering, the relief was palpable when the ministers, in the role of best men, popped the corks of their salmanazar bottles of champagne and toasted the mass matrimony of the lira, escudo, peseta, three national francs, two marks, guilder, schilling and the Irish pound.

A little over-emotional, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Brussels Monetary Commissioner, shocked the guests by threatening to spray them with bubbly in the style of a vic-

torious Formula One driver. Outside in the courtyard, children, decked from head to foot in the blue and gold of the European flag, counted down and released 3,000 balloons



the benefit of the television

This shows everything is going to become prosperous," said Jean-Louis Fourmy, the man from the Brussels balloon firm, who complained that he had been charged a special balloon-launching tax by the Belgian authorities.

In the distance, a gaggle of anti-euro demonstrators from The Netherlands chanted their disapproval of the single

But first had come the euro ritual, in which the officials calculated the rates at which the Il currencies would lock to-gether and dissolve themselves into the new at midnight. The rates were disclosed when Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, in an avuncular mood,

euro.

Like all weddings, the vicar, in the shape of Wim Duisenberg, the dry-humoured Governor of the European Central Bank, reminded the congregation that the union was irreversible. Then followed the oratory, in which the ministers competed with lofty meta-phors to convey the emotion of

"We are standing at the dawn of a new era in history," said Rudolf Edlinger, the Aus-trian Finance Minister and the outgoing EU finance chairman, setting the tone.

Minister after minister invoked history and added a national twist. Carlo Ciampi, for italy, gave a taste of Rome's relief that the lira had not been iilted. "Italian money is no longer national. Today it becomes European," he beamed, adding that Italy now wants even closer union.
The Finnish minister spoke

of his country's joy at being part of the euro union. Like the rich father of a bride espousing a poorer partner, the Germans sounded warnings on the need for thrift and effort, adding a swipe at Britain on fiscal misbehaviour. The effect was diminished by the fact that the sermon was delivered by Werner Müller, the Economy Minister, in the absence of Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, who preferred to stayed home with his family.

Denmark, which is staying out of the euro, surprised the



European Union finance ministers and officials mark the unveiling in Brussels yesterday of the fixed rates of currencies against the euro

Mr Duisenberg at their Brus-sels summmit last May.

Yesterday's euro lunch had been one of the shortest. Sir

would soon join. Portugal was thrilled to be part of a monetary giant, its minister said. True to form, France offered the most lyrical address. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the minister, invoked the dreams of Victor Hugo and ended "Vive La France en Europe!" Also keeping wedding tradition, "Un-cle" Jacques Santer paid homage to the euro's illustrious but absent grandparents, in the

form of Jacques Delors, the

dent, the late François Mitterrand of France and Helmut Kohl, the former German

Chancellor. Britain, the troublesome outsider at the festivities, offered a characteristally jarring note when Sir Stephen Wall, the Ambassador to the EU, eschewed the historic tone in favour of a questionable joke. Tony Blair, he recalled, had presided over the "longest lunch in the history of the EU"

Stephen said. "Perhaps we can converge on a central rate for lunches in the EU," he added, producing strained laughter. Sir Stephen declared: "We

wish it every success." The euro family tiff came from the sparring match between Mr Duisenberg and

week he has no intention of stepping down after only four years in the eight-year post at the bank in favour of a Frenchman. The arrangement was brokered by Mr Blair in March as a way of appeasing President Chirac's desire to have the job immediately for his country. Mr Duisenberg again asserted his independ

ence yesterday, however, earning a stinging riposte from M Strauss-Kahn, who said

bled over the appointment of set Paris by proclaiming this Mr Duisenberg would be breaking his solemn promise. ☐ Rome: The Italian Government presided over the minting of its first euro coins yesterday, but Rome postal workers. spoilt the festive launch by announcing a strike in protest at to work with the currency.

> Leading article. Letters, page 17 Business News, page 40

Praise for Briton who charted currency course



THE oddest sight at yesterday's cere-monies to launch the euro was of a senior, but largely unknown, British civil servant, being offered a standing ovation by all the finance min-

isters of euroland (Charles Bremner writes). Sir Nigel Wicks, 58, the Treasury's international direcor, was being hailed for his years as chairman of the EU cretive body of national offi-

enarations for the euro. Since 1993 Sir Nigel, who is standing down this month and who was awarded the

cials that has led the technical

MAN WHO MADE IT HAPPEN

GCB in the New Year Honours, has earned the esteem of EU finance ministries with his skill in steering the project through the uncharted waters leading to its creation.

The paradox of a British official at the belm of the finance committee has long worn off in the EU world fluence in the decisions that shaped the curo.

privacy with the tenacity of the model Whitehall man, became a power in the EU after helping John Major to negoti-

etary union at the Maastricht summit in 1991. Since 1993 the Cambridge graduate and former BP executive has commuted regularly to Brussels and other EU capitals from

his home in Guildford, attract-

ing little public recognition ex-

cept for his nomination last umn in a much-publicised list of the 300 most influential people in Britain. Although seen initially as a Eurosceptic, Sir Nigel took to the nuts and bolts of building the single currency with such man and other officials have

the outside camp, but as one of their own. "He has made damaed sure this thing works," said a senior French

Yesterday, Sir Nigel blushed and looked at the table when Rudolf Edlinger, the Austrian chairman of the finance ministers' council, said: "On behalf of the council, I want to express our admiration and deeply-felt grati-Sir Nigel Wicks." The council broke into spontaneous applause. German speakers not ed that Sir Nigel was the only participant whom Herr Edlinger had not addressed with the intimate Du, sticking with



Regular travellers will enjoy benefits of new bank accounts



will benefit from opening a euro bank account are those who travel regularly within euroland whether on business or for pleasure. European properfrom a euro bank account. Shares: Holding shares on the Continent may be easier with. a euro bank account. Anyone with a connection in euroland. such as family in Spain, or

also benefit from opening a euro account. Credit cards: Transactions on credit cards and debit cards in euroland will be quoted both in the euro and in the local currency. Cater Allen Bank has just launched a euro-denominated Visa card in conjunction with a euro bank account. The card allows customers to pay in the new currency without incurring any foreign exchange transaction charges.

the first year of the euros in-

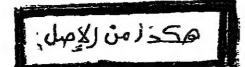
Dual pricing: From today the local currency of each participating country will be fixed to the curo. So if, for example. you drive to the French Riviera and then go to the Dor-dogne the week after, the exchange rate between the euro and the French franc should not vary at any point during

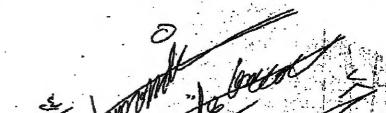
your holiday. Price comparisons: easier to remember one exchange rate (the euro against around curpland that eventua

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EUROPE'S NEW CURRENCY

وحذاب زلامل

newera

EDAY JANUARY IN

FROM ROGI BOYES

THE Germansill usher in the new financiera today by

eating the curo
In a party outle the Euro
pean Central ink's headquarters in Fakfurt. Germans will backto chocolate euros and about 000 people will arrange thiselves into a huge human ision of the euro symbol Helicopter-borne televisi teams will capture what inkfurt's city elders are alrey calling "the

picture of the etary.

A vast euroke has been baked and wife on display at Frankfurt port. A euro-jigsaw has beproduced and banners are the strong up in the airpo aumouncing "Welcome to troland". The euro, in shorts being given the Jeux sans pntières treatment. The origin plans were much grandeand the contrast between an and reality shows how sorty and uneasily the Germs are adapting to the slow det of the mark.

Helmut Ko when Chan-cellor and TheWaigel, his Finance Minis, fought hard to make Frantit the seat of the EuropeaCentral Bank. They insisted at the new currency shoulde called the euro rather in ecu, which has French cnotations, and they fought lid to make the European Ciral Bank resemble the Bdesbank.

Having we all those bat-ties, it wouldave been logi-cal to granded in Frankfurt on Newsar's Day. Different propos were mooted — a summit statesmen and central bankads from euro-land, a sound light show on the Frankt skyline and a dazzling ework display transmitted satellite televi-

transmitted satellite televi-sion arounde world.

But no they was made available sithe party, such as it is, is ber imaneed largely by prive banks. The Frankfurter Rundschau is mented: "Athat remains is street festil: choco-euros, some sauses and some mulied win

will enjo

ink account

Petra RotMayor of Frankfurt, has be lobbying hard to make heity competitive with Lond as a financial centre. Herarketing slogan is: "Frankfilisn't large, but it's great". It como celebration suggest at the City of London necitat be too nervous. Fran Rotwill be watching the partyr television she saw no ison to come back from liday for the

Germans Numbers eat tleir Numbers way nto moneary **game** hits City screens

By Susie Steiner

ON one computer a game of Pacman chomped across the screen. Employees, in jeans and trainers, leant back on chairs dotted around a cavernous trading floor that normally seats 600. They chatted,

they made tea, they exchanged New Year's Eve plans.
Then, at 11.54am yesterday, a figure flashed on a screen which signified the culmination of the plans of the significant than 20 wears of tion of more than 30 years of economic and political planning. London learnt, at that moment, that there are to be 1.95583 German marks to the euro. For ever.

But as monetary union came to fruition, setting 11 Eu-ropean currences at a permanent rate in relation to each other, there was barely a flicker of response on the Bardays

Capital trading floor.
"It's very much in line with expectations," said a relaxed Jane Foley, currency strategist for the investment bank, who sat in front of three stagnant computer screens while the droning voice of the German Finance Minister piped out of her desk microphone.

The biggest surprise would be if there were a surprise. "It's a success because nothing has happened. There is no drama and that's the way we want it because the point of the

ity." Other euro rates floated in soon afterwards, with the French franc closely followed by the Italian lira, the Spanish peseta, the Portuguese escudo, the Finnish markka, the Irish pound, the Belgian and the Luxembourg francs, the Dutch guilder and the Austrian schilling. All these currencies will eventually cease to exist, and the market which played on the fluctuations between them was largely ended out long ago.
"Trading between

French franc and the lira was phased out two years ago," said Nick Douch, economic risk adviser for Barclays Capi-tal. "It's one of the reasons why emerging markets became so important."

While II currencies undergo their planned cuthanasia, sterling (accompanied by the monies of Sweden, Denmark and Greece) continues to fight for life with its power in considera-ble peril. "The biggest risk is that we are not in," said Mr "If you are a British compa-

ny and you are selling to Europe in sterling, from Monday you are going to find it very difficult because they will be trading in curos. Sterling is going to look a very small currency." The diminution of sterling next to the mighty curo is also



Currency strategist Jane Foley: "Most people are expecting the euro to strengthen, but I don't agree"

taking place, on a symbolic level, in the new vocabulary of trading to start from Monday. While up to now sterling has always had the proud status of denominator, traders will now speak in terms of sterling-to-the-curo. Eyes now will be on the value of the curo

against other fluctuating currencies such as the dollar, the yen and the pound. What we are waiting for is the value against the dollar,"

said Ms Foley. That's what counts. Most people expect the euro to strengthen but I don't agree. It

will move according to fundamental economic factors. The economic slowdown that we are expecting in 1999 indicates that there is a greater need for

the scenes working round the clock to secure the smooth transition to euro trading. Computer technicians must

switch thousands of screens to

There is no surprise, no drama and that's the way we want it?

a new picture, deleting the Ger-

Year's Eve for the City's converters, who must translate trillions of pounds of debt and assets from the old currencies into the new. An estimated 30,000 work-

ers will be redenominating bank deposits of £280 billion, about El.3 trillion of govern-ment securities, 20,000 share securities and 47,000 futures and options contracts.

Barclays Capital, where about 200 employees will work through the weekend, has booked 80 hotel rooms and will keep its canteen run-

Creeps, shocks and the dreaded h-word

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

NEW\$ from the European Union in 1999 will be dominated by a mammoth squab-ble over who pays what for running the Union and its £30 billion annual farm subsidies. To cut through the jargon The Times offers a glossary of eurospeak: curoland: || states adopt-

ing the single currency. Population 300 million.

□ euro-II: council of finance ministers, expected to emerge as virtual economic government of euroland

pre-ins: countries "not yet" in the single currency, namely Britain, Greece, Denmark and Sweden. Deuro creep: the increas-

GLOSSARY

ing adoption of the euro as a parallel currency in pre-ins. stability pact: sets fines for euro countries that run high budget deficits.

asymetric shock: local economic trouble. Excuse for breaking stability pact. federative shock: leap to deeper economic and politi-cal integration.

☐ barmonisation: h-word. means reducing differences in tax levels to ensure level playing field. In some cases likely to mean levelling upwards to protect high taxes. ☐ social dumping: using low taxes to attract investment. Code for tax system in Britain and Ireland.

□ social harmonisation: French scheme for setting European minimum wage. cutting working hours.

Oskar Lafontaine: un-

pleasant face of federalism.

Number one lan of h-word.

solidarity: helping out

EU partners with problems by sending them money. conesion funds: cash for hreland, Spain, Portugal and Greece out of solidarity to raise living standards. ☐ structural funds: regional ald programme. Punch-up looming over new shareout of diminishing kitty. stabilisation: freezing EU budget at current level. ☐ Agenda 2000: grand six-

year spending package. May be ready by 2000. □ ad-hoc solution on the revenue side: euphemism for British-style rebate from EU budget. Correction: what Germany wants done to its £8 bil-

lion EU membership bill.

competetive currencies." Al-though the City's Square Mile man mark, the lira and the rest and replacing them with a will remain all but deserted over the three-day new year break, there are those behind

Bonn presidency to push for closer political union

of the EU from Austria today, aiming to use the launch of the euro as a spur to closer. political union, more harmonised taxes and a new deal on its share of Brus-

sels spending.

Despite the new left-wing tide across Europe, Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and his team have left their partners in no doubt that Born aims to use its turn : at the EU helm to assert German interests, especially over EU finances. Setting the tone for a presidency packed with deadlines for reform. German ministers hailed the birth of

the single currency as a leap to a new

By Charles Bremner era of shared policy making. Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, said the euro had promoted the EU to the world league" economically and it must now follow politically. "Old and beloved habits are going to have to be thrown overboard," he said.

Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, caused a flurry again by making a direct link between Bonn's two most sensitive demands from the EU: tax harmonisation and a large cut in Germany's 60 per cent contribution to the EU's annual budget. There is no way that Europe can expect Germany to pay the highest net contribution, but at the same time it does nothing against the unfair tax competition," Herr Lafontaine said.

The German insistence on bring-ing tax rates closer into line jars with

GERMANY. Tony Blair's claims to have laid to

rest the explosive tax subject when he won agreement from Herr Schröder last month that there was no intention to set uniform tax rates. A more "level playing field" on taxes is seen by the Germans as a necessary next step in the deeper integration that comes with monetary union.

While no one is seeking uniform rates, the Germans, with backing from France and most of the other nine states in euroland, are determined to end the big discrepancies between tax regimes on business profits, savings income and energy use. Their first target is to close European "tax oases" such as Luxembourg and

billions of pounds in unpaid taxes.

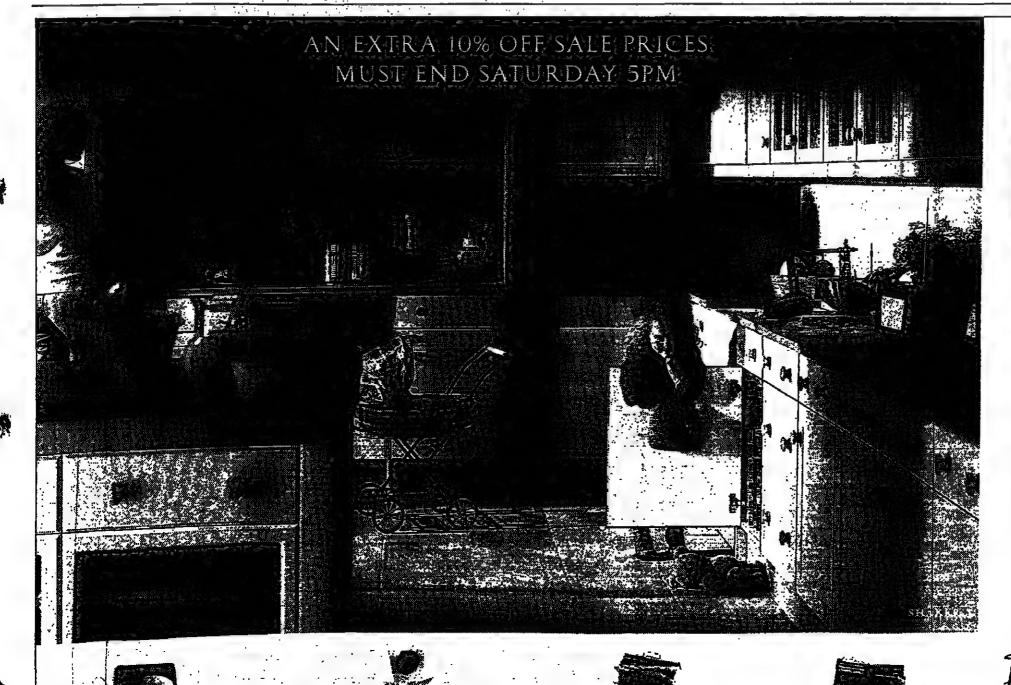
Increased tax harmony is seen by the Germans as part of their drive to absorb the Continent's crushing level of unemployment through co-ordinated measures across the EU. Herr Schröder promised this week to fight his national corner. "My job is to look out for Germany's interests," he said.

The break with the conciliatory style of Helmut Kohl and other past German leaders is setting the scene for fights over imminent big EU decisions. Rather than brokering compromise on common ground, Bonn is not flinching from stirring up trouble. The chief area is the new six-year spending plan, a fiendishly complicated package that will encompass re-

the Channel Islands, which are said form on farm spending and national to be used by Germans as havens for contributions to the EU budget, including the British rebate.

By June, Germany will also have

presided over the choice of a new Commission President to replace Jacques Santer. There must be agreement on a high representative for foreign policy, a new post that amounts to Europe's first foreign minister". Bonn is likely to push for a German to fill one of these posts but no plausi-ble names are in circulation. Because northerners have held the top Brussels jobs in recent years, the current favourites for Commission President are southern politicians, including Professor Romano Prodi and Lamber to Dini, both former Italian Prime Ministers, and Antonio Guterres, the Portuguese Prime Minister.



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Clintons escape and hope the tide will turn

TOSSING a ball for Buddy. President Clinton strolled on the beach during a brief res-pite from his impeachment

As his labrador romped in the surf, the President — in tracksuit and baseball cap chanted to friendly tourists. Earlier his motorcade had driven past small groups of protesters, including one hold-ing a large sign that said: "Feel

our pain — resign now."

The Clintons are seeing in the new year as usual at the upmarket resort of Hilton Head. off the coast of South Carolina. They have joined a crowd of other high achievers assem-bled for the annual off-therecord Renaissance Weekend.

One bright spot for the family was that Chelsea Clinton accompanied her parents to the retreat, contrary to a state-ment from the White House press office that she would not attend. In tacit admission of their troubles, Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary were not asked to conduct the questionand-answer session on New Year's Eve as in years past, at

Ian Brodie reports from Washington on new moves in

Senate to avoid a full trial

which the impeachment issue was sure to have been raised. "I thought there were more important things for them to address, so I didn't hassle them about it," said the Renaissance organiser, Linda Le-Sound Lader, wife of Phil Lad-

er, US Ambassador to Britain. To add to the Clintons' embarrassment, Americans do-ing their weekend shopping will see a blaring tabloid headline at supermarket checkout counters: "Hillary Beats Up Bill". This is the report in the National Enquirer that an in-furiated Mrs Clinton, broken by the strain of her husband's womanising, hit him so hard

his face and Secret Service agents had to separate them.

Despite the widespread visibility of the account, the White House press office continued

to have no comment yester-day. Still, Mr and Mrs Clinton could take comfort that they remain top of Gallup's annual "most admirted" poll of Ameri-cans and by a higher percent-age than last year. He was named by 18 per cent of those surveyed, up from 14 per cent, and Mrs Clinton's rating doubled from 14 to 28 per cent. The Pope and Oprah Winfrey were runners-up.
While the Clintons were en-

joying sunshine among old friends, snow was falling in Washington. The political climate, however, may be turning slightly less chilly. A paper was circulating in the Senate suggesting a swift test vote on whether the perjury and ob-struction of justice charges against Mr Clinton warrant his removal from office.

Under this plan, prosecu-tors from the House Judiciary Committee would make a



President Clinton and his dog Buddy stroll on the beach at Hilton Head, South Carolina, where the presidential family is spendimew year

brief presentation to the Senare followed by a White House rebuttal. Senators would then be asked to vote on whether the allegations, if true, would justify removing the President.

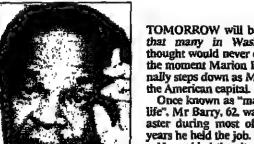
The idea is that the vote would prevent a long trial by demonstrating that the Republicans could not muster the 67 votes needed to dismiss Mr Clinton. The Senate would then take up the proposal to reprimand him. Averting a trial did not sit well with Henry Hyde, the Republican chairman of the house committee, who said that the Senate's duty should

not be short-circuited: "We must not act so hastily that the Senate does not have a fair opportunity to review a factual

On the flight to South Caroli-

na, Mr Clint ambled to the rear of Air Fie One to collar Buddy, Repers asked if he had made ansew year's reso-lutions. "I morking on it," the Presidentid.

'Mayor for life' leaves with no regrets



Barry: enjoyed life while

TOMORROW will be a day that many in Washington thought would never come— the moment Marion Barry bnally steps down as Mayor of

Once known as "mayor for life". Mr Barry, 62, was a disaster during most of the 16 years he held the job.

He padded the city payroll with thousands of patronage jobs, was incapable of fixing the simplest of municipal chores, and gained notoriety when an FBI sting caught him smoking crack.

Mr Barry was a night owl who cruised the city's clubs with his police bodyguards. He took junkets overseas. His name was linked to a variety of women. And all the while

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

city services grew worse. Eventually, Congress and President Clinton stripped him of power. Using their authority over the federal district, they created a control board to tackle the morass, including budget deficits, a dysfunctional city hall, inept schools and a scandal-prone police force. The board pulled

the city back from the brink and now its former chief financial officer, Anthony Williams, will be taking over as

Mayor.

Mr Barry saw no evil at his final, wistful, press conference. "I've been a good mayor," he said. "I have no regrets." He vowed to write an autobiography to "tell my side of history". Authorities have begun an investigation into whether tens of thousands of dollars of city money were di-verted to pay for a gala to celebrate Mr Barry's tenure.

US closes embassy in **Tel Aviv**

Jerusalem: The US Embassy in Israel was closed yesterday after an anonymous warning that a bomb would be detonated inside the offices in Tel Aviv (Ross Dunn writes). Edward Walker, the ambassador, ordered the closure on US security service recom-mendations. It is thought that an attack may have been planned by militant Islamic groups because of the US and British bombings of Iraq.

Mir comrades break open the cognac to wish the worldwell

of February at the earliest.

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

COSMONAUTS on the Mir space station will be celebrating the new year — Russia's most important holiday — around a miniature artificial tree 250 miles above the earth.

This will be Sergei Avde-yev's third new year in space, and New Year's Day is both his 43rd birthday and his 500th day in orbit. He and Gennadi Padalka are not due

to return to Earth until the end

Their tiny, decorated tree will add an air of seasonal splendour to the pair's New Year's Day satellite address. They will also have a midnight twoway celebratory link-up with their families to detract from the extreme isolation of life in

But Valeri Lyndin, of the Flight Control Centre, says the two men will not be able to raise the traditional glass of Russian champagne to their loved ones because carbonat-

little bubbles at out and get everywhere," kays. Theoreti-cally, he addiaughing, the men will not drinking any alcohol at all.

In reality, t is new year and the crew Russian. In February 1993S astronauts on Mir were geered to see their Russian ceagues breaking out the coac after successfully puttiout a fire on board. It is a tily kept secret



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هكذامن رلامل

Son sues rail firm over Auschwitz

A JEWISH Frenchman whose parents were deported by train and murdered at Auschwitz in the Second World War is suing the state-owned French railway for alleged crimes against hypersection. crimes against humanity

TAVARY 1 194

French railworkers of the Societé Nationale des Chemins de Fer (SNCF) have been celebrated as Resistance fighters. But the lawsuit launched by Jean-Jacques Fraenkel, the first of its kind, has questioned that heroic image by claiming that the rail company collabo-rated in the deportations to Nazi death camps.

M Fraenkel is already suing the State for "receiving stolen goods" — valuables taken, from his parents — but he has extended the suit to include SNCF, which was nationalised in 1938. He claims that his ther, a surgeon and holder of the Légion d'honneur, and mother, who became a Resistance worker, were taken to the death carops in French trains and the state rail company "collaborated in the deportations without any individual

- di

The French state railway is accused of collaborating in wartime deaths, writes Ben Macintyre in Paris

which could face an avalanche

of similar claims from Holo-

caust victims. "The SNCF

knew the intolerable condi-

the train convoys.

Roger Fraenkel, M Fraenkel's father, was among 743
wealthy Jews taken to Ausch-

witz in 1941, soon after the

Nazi occupation of France. His mother fled to Nice, but

was betrayed and sent to

Auschwitz in 1943, leaving M Fraenkel and his younger sis-er as orphans. The family

apartment was looted under the anti-lewish legislation.

"By operating trains of de-ported Jews using French

staff, the SNCF took part.

alongside the French adminis-

tration and other private com-

or collective act of opposition".

M Fraenkel, 67, who also holds Canadian citizenship, acknowledges that individual railworkers performed acts of great heroism during the war, but he insists that the comp-any did nothing to prevent the deportation of French Jews.

There were, it is true, railworkers who were deported and shot, SNCF employees who resisted. But it should not he forgotten that there were hundreds of trains which transported Jews like so much freight to the concentration camps," M. Fraenkel said. "It must be officially recognised that the SNCF was one of the tools used by the Nazis to exterminate 80,000 French Jews."

The judge examining M Fraenkel's claims against the State is also likely to take over the complaint against SNCF panies, in a crime against hu-manity," M Fraenkel alleges in a lawsuit which the Paris prosecutors office confirmed was "unprecedented".

The French railworker or cheminot enjoys an almost mythical status. That is likely to be shattered if M Fraenkel proves that the company and its wartime staff played a role tions these people faced on the cattle trains." M Fraenkel said, pointing out that the com-pany's bureaucrats organised in one of the worst crimes in

☐ Vienna: Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal, who helped to track down and bring to justice 1,100 Nazi war criminals, celebrated his 90th birthday here yesterday with his wife Cyla and daughter

Pauline.

Mr Wiesenthal was born in Buczacz, now in Ukraine, in 1908 and during the second world war was interned in a dozen Nazi German concentration camps before being liber-ated from Mathausen in Aus-tria by US troops in 1945.

After the war he started his pursuit of former Nazi war criminals from his Jewish Documentation Centre. (AFP)



Father Giuseppe Puglisi, who was shot dead in 1983 outside his home in a poor district of Palermo, Sicily. The Vatican announced yesterday that the priest, who was a suspected Mafia victim, will be beatified during a ceremony this year

Papal blessings to cost 25% more

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN BOME

THE Vatican said yesterday that it was increasing by a quarter today the cost of the special papal blessings that are sold under licence to pilgrims in authorised shops around St Peter's Square in order to be able to devote

more funds to the poor. Archbishop Oscar Rizzato, head of the Apostolic Alms Of-fice which helps the Pope to minister to the poor, said the Holy See hopes that the increased price to the shops. 5,000 lire (£1.80) instead of 4,000 lire, would be borne by the retailers so that pilgrims do not have to pay extra for

the spiritual souvenirs.
The increase was decided because of the growing difficulty of coping with the ever greater number of poor peo-ple who ask for help from the Holy Father," he said. The blessings are sold in

the form of certificates bearing a picture of the Pope. er prices range from 18,000 lire upwards.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

America to resume k opeith China rights talks

Comparing the dialogue with China, it was announced yesterday, despite Beijing's crackdown on dissent. The dialogue, discontinued in 1995, will resume based on initiatives from last year's summit between Presidents Jiang Zemin and Clinton, said a US Embassy spokesman in Beijing. In recent days, China has punished four high-profile democracy activists with stiff prison sentences and Ma Zhe, a dissident poet, was jailed for seven years on subversion charges.

The embassy would not comment on whether specific cases of jailed dissidents would be raised, only stating that "the agenda for the talks is still being negotiated". A Chinese delegation will travel to Washington to resume the talks. (AFP)

UN Angola staff leave

Luanda: The United Nations has started evacuating its staff from Huambo, Angola's second-largest city, after a rebel artillery barrage that killed at least eight people. The International led Cross said 20 wounded civilians were admitted to hospital after an hour-long bombardment of the city by Unita's long-range artillery. Thousands of refugees fleeing fighting in the countryside have converged on Huambo in recent weeks. (AP)

Australia wanted Bomb

Canberra: Australia, a vocal opponent of nuclear weapons proliferation, considered building up to 30 atomic tombs a year as recently as 1968, according to declassified Cabinet documents released by the National Archives. They show that John Gorton's conservative Government supported the principle of non-proliferation during the United Nations treaty debate as long as it did not block Australia's options to build a bomb at some stage. (AP)

Mob injures four nuns



mat better

me to mov

Delhi: A boy takes part in a demon-stration in the Indian capital against anacks on Christians and churches in the western state of Gujarat, where four nuns and two priests were earlier injured when mobs-attacked a Catholic prayer hall. The attack was the tenth on the Christian community since Christmas Day, officials said. Christian activists blame Hindu extremists, but no one has claimed responsibility for the violence. (Reuters)

Child killings arrest

Bogota: Colombia has reported the capture of Pedro Pablo Ramirez, suspected of murdering 29 children whose bodies were found in November in two ditches in the city of Pereira. Investiganors were also trying to determine if he was involved in other fourders of children that have taken place in recent years, officials said. Serior Ramirez was arrested using a false name in Pereira, 195 miles east of Bogota. (AFP)

Bosnian Serb choice

Banja Luka: In an attempt to end a political deadlock, President Poplasen of Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb territory, named Brane Miljus. right, a moderate, as Prime Minister-designate after a hardliner falled to win parliamentary approval. Mr Miljus is a member of the pro-Western Party of Independent Social Democrats run by Milorad Dodik, the current Prime Minister. The parliament must approve Mr Miljus. (AP)



Rebels beaten back

Freetown: West African peacekeepers beat back a rebel attack on the outskirts of the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown, driving them from the garrison town of Hastings, a spokesman for the peacekeeping force said. Residents fleeing the town, 12 miles from the interpretabled former British colorate against acid these from the impoverished former British colony's capital, said that the rebels had attacked overnight. Earlier, the Government de-nied that rebels were in control of the northern region. (Reuters)



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Slope off in style and comfort: Snow + Rock has concentrated on a range of snug and sensible suits, and the pink Killy, £379, is a classic

here is something intensely comforting about skiing with a group of friends who wear the same skigear every year. Since we last skied together, bombs have been dropped, politicians have encountered banana skins and trauma has gripped the City, but as we head for the first lift in Val-d'Isère next week, we will look pretty much the same as we did last January. It is like entering a loop in which time

stands still. Displaying scant regard for the vagaries of sporting fashion is also a good excuse for making a ski-suit last at least a decade (as the Prince of Wales has obviously concluded). No one would be able to pick you out on the slopes if you changed hue, you claim, so why swap the battered burgundy one-piece for something less faded? The chums are an obliging lot and at least one of them will slap you warmly on the back and insist that they wouldn't recognise you in any other

So you put to the back of your mind the obvious truth that there Warm, windproof, long-lasting — and good for posing. Penny Wark searches for the perfect ski suit

are two ways to recognise friends at a million paces. I prefer to think that it is my soignee appearance that makes me identifiable, but secretly I know that it is skiling style (or lack of it) that enables companions to pick me out from 50 others hurtling down La Grande Motte. Colour is the secondary factor.

Nevertheless, it is with some reluctance that I have come to accept that the Head suit bought on im-pulse during a former life is past its prime. The moment of truth came last year when I realised that in spite of vests (one sleeveless, one long-sleeved), long johns (two pairs) and all mariner of poloneck tops, I was still numb with cold. I invested E70 in a delicious Eider fleece top and matching long johns, which could not have been toastier (I have been wearing them at home ever since), but even these did not remove the need for a warmer outThe search began for something warm, windproof and waterproof, and with a reasonable pose factor thrown in. I wanted a one-piece, because, inconvenient as they are at lunchtime, they are extremely snug and, unlike jacket and trousers, they don't ever come apart.

I was also looking for a tall collar that would, when zipped up, come halfway up my face, sleeves that fall below my wrists, pockets to take credit cards and tissues without spoiling the line of the suit, and a rescue reflector. All that and a neat, simple design in a colour that will endure another decade without looking completely tragic If only it were that easy. I rapidly

discovered that many of this year's suits fall into two categories: vile colours (do you really want to look like a banana?) and the pseudo-sporty effect that threatens to make you look like a teenager on heat. It is a look that is seriously incomplete

without a cavalier disregard for oth-"Dunno, wasn't me", or "I've dropped my gloves off the lift" at five-minute intervals. Not for grown-ups, in my view.

This is one of the traps that C & A has tumbled into this season. It may be famous for its skiwear but its current range will satisfy only youths or those, possibly with a fondness for Saturday Night Fever, who like to ski in Lurex. This, I admit, had never occurred to me.

ut persevere and you discover that Snow + Rock has concentrated on Stug and sensible suits — the Killy one-piece in pink (£379) is a classic, and I was particularly taken by the purse slotted on to its belt. The snag is the colour range: if you choose white, what happens when you lose a chunk of oil-drenched chèvre chaud down your front at

the first lunch? You buy another suit presumably. The same goes for a fabulous cream suit by Belfe, trimmed in fake fur, at £329.

Tenson has a simple black suit at 6269, and Brugi a red one with a fieece collar at a remarkable £129. But too many of this year's wom-en's suits are laden with faux gold buckles and fastenings, and even

At Lillywhites I was melting with desire at the sight of Bogner's exquisite ice blue one-piece, with its fur collar and cuffs, until an assistant explained that they were silver fox, which apparently justified the £1.500 price. I will learn to live with-

out it on both counts. I found my suit at Carryon Mountain Sports in Leicester. By Trespass, it is simple, warm, has a grey fleece collar and, at E89.99. such good value that I felt obliged to ask what was wrong with it.

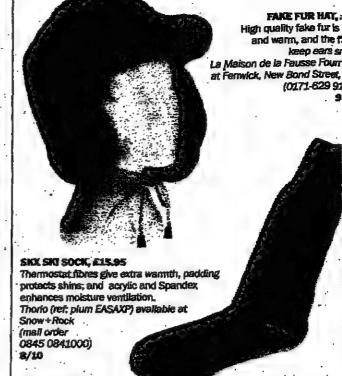
For my friends' information, it is red. "You look like a tomato," said one of the teenagers. When they grow up and learn to be tactful, they will realise that "red hot chilli pepper" would be much more polite.







FLEECE GLOVES, £12 Thin enough to be worn (instead of silk gloves) under ski mittens and excet for those whose fingers always freeze. The Gap (0800 427789)

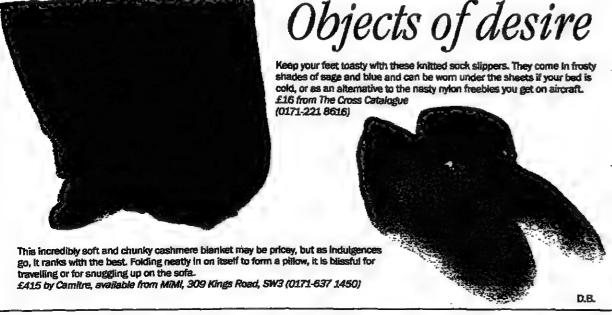


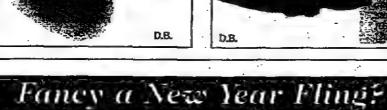


NDERWEAR, Mary £15, vest i An excellent first la for keeping out the a thermal top and pa have a soft fleece! lining which feris & Spencer (01)

FLEECE TOP, £39 Fine fleece that keeps you warm without adding extra bulk. Doubles as a tracksui top for lounging around efter skiing. Elder (ref:lemon CEJBFY), at Snow+Rock as before 10/10

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Lincoln, Lincolnshine The White Hart

'I'm not desperate to be a superstar'

Sean Bean, the Sheffield welder turned actor, is careful not to sever his roots. Interview by Grace Bradberry

He has

the

nation's

best-

known

bottom

best-known bottom. His face is unusual but attractive; slitty-eyed, roughened, but with a fine bone structure supporting cheeks that look somehow well worn — as if they've been punched and kissed in equal measure.

Waiting to meet Sean Bean, you can't help but have expectations, many of them prompted by his performance as Meliors in Lady Chat-terley's Lover. When I

saw him, even at 20 yards, he was something different: sitting hunched in a leather jacket on designer furniture at the swanky One Aldwych, a bit awkward, as though minding his manners. Then there was that unruly, spiky sinile, the sort that American dental surgeons would "fix":

Bean is famous for being unreconstructed. He has long worn his upbringing on a Sheffield

council estate like a bulletproof vest: a working-class chauvinist whose second marriage fell apart because, according to his former wife Melanie Hill (Aveline in Bread), he watched too much football, spent too long in the pub and let his clothes lie where they fell; a man given to disparaging comparisons between his mother's and his wife's Yorkshire puddings:

"Yeah?" he says at the mention of the Yorkshire puddings and nar-rows his eyes. I wonder if he's about to lose it — he is and known for his temper - but he softens. "I think I've been misunderstood," he says. "I might have misled people."

e is arguably one of Britain's sexiest actors, makes a fine villain and has the nation's

A lot of what I say is tongue incheek. Some people actually believe it, which is quite worrying."

It is easy to parronise Bean, and

plenty have done. He has chosen to keep the regional accent, which makes him different given that so many actors prefer to bury theirs. "I could lose it," he says, "but I think, why lose something as good as that? Hell come out with cliches and bornilies: "You've just got to keep your feet on the ground." But to get stuck at that is to miss the

He is surprisingly sensitive, introspective, and there's an interior dialogue that is articulated through intonation, furrowing of the brow and half-snarls rather than words. The deal that has been struck in advance is that there will be no questions about his private life, but it becomes clear that this won't work because he doesn't seem to have developed a public life. He talks about film-

ing Bravo Two Zero, his latest television drama, in which he plays the SAS soldier Andy Mc-Nab, captured and tortured by the Iragis during the Gulf War. Spend-ing months in the desert with "a bunch of lads" helped with the por-trayal of a tightly knit SAS team, he says, "except that we were going home to the hotel every night having beers. Ha ha ha."

So who are "the lads" back in London? He conjures up one friend, a writer, with whom he occasionally drinks in the West End. "but we don't make a thing of it". Fashionable London life is not his thing either. Finally he says: "My The drubbing he got when he and carpenters. There is wife Abby, she's got a baby of four and Hill separated is not sometion. But we're friends."



"I think I've been misunderstood," says Bean. "I might have misled people. A lot of what I say is tongue-in-cheek but some people actually believe it, which is worrying

weeks. So I mean we're not really going to that many parties at the moment." Abby is Abigail Crut-tenden, his third wife, the privately educated daughter of an advertising executive, whom he met filming Sharpe. They married just over a year ago and live in Belsize Park, North London. Evie Natasha is his third daugh-

ter. His two older daughters, Lorna and Molly, live with their mother, Melanie Hill, whom he met at RADA and stayed with for 16 years, although they were married only for the last six. She threw him out. It has been a stormy two years. In his own words: "I've got divorced, married, had a baby and moved house. That's enough for me."

Overall, his marriage record isn't as bad as it sounds. He was only 20 when he married his first wife, a hairdresser, just before going to drama school. She speaks warmly about him and still pops round to his mother's for cups of tea.

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thing we talk about but sometimes he seems to be addressing it indirectly, as when he talks resentfully of being portrayed as "this mad, sort of fanatical, sort of laddish football fan, and even if you wanted to be like that, you couldn't be".

He says he doesn't get to see Shef-field United play so much any more. There's other things in my life as well." Living a middle-class existence in London, spending months on film sets, shooting Hollywood movies with the likes of Melanie Griffith (Stormy Monday), Har-rison Ford (Patrior Games) and Robert De Niro (Ronin), he can't help but change. Bean worries about that, even as

he wants it to be acknowledged. "I don't like being cliched, one of the lads, northern. It diminishes what you are to some extent." But he has been careful not to sever his roots, and at 39 still drives to Sheffield to see old friends. "Of course I'm an actor; they're plumbers, welders and carpenters. There is a distinc-

Bean left his Sheffield comprehensive with two O levels, an awareness that he was attractive to girls and a bit of skill at playground brawls - "a kickaround and a thump, you know what I mean?" He worked briefly for his father as a welder before going to art school. He tried three different colleges, and at the third discovered

the drama department.

"My family were bernused. I said, "I'm going to be an actor." I think they thought, "Well, he wanted to be in a band last week, he wanted to be an artist the week before'. When I got into RADA they were supportive. He describes the acceptance let-

ter as "like a ticket to another life". which is odd when he hangs on to the old life so carefully. He nods. "That's right. I think occasionally, maybe, that the downside of a close community is that you can't sometimes function as an individual. You have to break away into a situation where you don't feet inhibited. on where you don't feel inhibited. change to the people that are The video was released on "The strange thing is that it's around, the people that I'm with. Worldwide on December 23.

come full cycle because then you go through all that, but you have to come back. It wasn't a maner of saving goodbye. I don't want anything to do with you. It was just bye for now. You learn a lot, you come back and you learn a lot more.™

Bean's attachment to his roots isn't a stubborn, moral stance; it's about nurturing his acting talent, which is considerable. "I think I'm pretty good," he acknowledges. "But I've tried not to let it go to my head. You can cut off what you set out to do in the first place, which was to play ordinary people. I hope I haven't done that anyway."

It is hard getting Sean Bean to lighten up. He devotes most of his energy to keeping the barrier in place. You get the impression he both likes women and derives quite a lot of humour from them but that he is scared of expressing this.

"I'd hate to think of myself as entrenched in my male beliefs," he says. "I'd like to think that I'd Not be a yes man, but adapt."
Above all, he doesn't want to seem grand. He won't go to premieres except his own, and although he has made several movies he isn't a movie star. Wouldn't moving to Hollywood fuel his career? "It's difficult with America because I've got my family here," he says. "I've never really capitalised on the success I've had there — which I should have done - but I have no regrets. I don't want to be massive. It's nice to do great work, but I'm not desper-

ate to be some superstar." We talk about privacy. Isn't it tough when people know so much more about him than he does about them?"Well, if people recognise me I don't go 'What are you looking at me for? Nine times out of ten they have seen me before."

All of him. And there are plenty of nice bits, besides the bottom. Bravo Two Zero is screened in two parts on BBC1 on Sunday. Jan-uary 3, and Monday, January 4. The video was released on BBC



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Zen and the art of blading

Mary Ann Sieghart promotes

a perfect form of transport

or weeks I wobbled.

Within a month I was motoring. Now a whole year has passed, and I am almost an expert. It was for Christmas 1997 that my huster than the party of the par band gave me a pair of Rollerblades. And ever since, I have enjoyed a lasting enthusiasm that happens also to be a brilliant mode of transport. Short of parasailing down Piccadilly, I can't imagine what could be more thrilling.

After dropping my children off at school in Victoria I can now Rollerblade to work in Wapping in 45 minutes flat. It takes only a little longer than the Tube, True, I can't read The Times on my travels. But what the Tube does not offer is glorious views of the Thames, fresh(jsh) air, a feeling of exhilaration as you pick up speed and a great sense of achievement when you finally arrive glowing and triumphant, at your desk.

This year's Christmas present is a Discman, so that I can listen to CDs while I skate. Dub reggae and funk are the best, as I send my blades whooshing to the beat. Forget jogging or the gym. This is that elusive discovery: a form

got a

those

things,

Miss?

of exercise that is actually fun.
It is as hard as it looks, to begin with. But, if you 'Have you ever ice-skated or rollerskated licence for as a child, your limbs already know the basic score. Stopping is a lot more starting: on my

execute a couple of spins around it in order to prevent myself skidding into the traf-fic. Unfortunately the traffic happened to be a minibus full of policemen who fell about laughing at this ridiculous speciacle. The police driver turned on his loudspeaker and broadcast my humiliation to the world: "Have you got a licence for those, Miss?" he

teased over the Tannoy.

A lesson later, though, and I was beginning to get the hang of the brake. We bumped into Hugh Sackwild, an Oxford physics graduate turned Rollerblading expert, teaching someone else in Hyde Park, and engaged him for a family instruction the next day. He showed us the various methods of turning, stopping and dealing with kerbs. And there was the constant reminder:

"Bend your knees." As with skiing, this is the most important, but also the hardest, instruction to remember. You instinctively straighten your legs when danger looms: you have to re-educate your reflexes. But this is not the only resemblance with skiing. At its best, on a smooth, flat surface with no cars or pedestrians and a beautiful view, you can work un a speed and a rhythm which give you just the same sense of euphoria as a really good run down a piste - for a

fraction of the price. I admit that Bournemouth is hardly St Moritz, and the aures-blade leaves something to be desired. But, when I took

Tory party conference, and set off on a crisp Indian summer's morning for an hour's exercise along a deserted promenade, I wondered why we had speni so much money on a trip to the Alps that spring. The beach was a many-mile-long sandy crescent, the sea was sequin-sparkling in the sun and the grassy hills surged up from the shore. No one else was about, save the occasional jogger putting far more work into his mode of transport

than I, swooshing silkily past. Few other forms of exercise can equal such elation. Skiing is up there. Galloping is great. And tacking close to the wind when a gust tips the boat almost perpendicular to the water, hits the spot too. But Rollerblading is the only one of these that you can do in a city, with minimal kit, at low expense. How many people can commute to work on skis,

on horseback or in a dinghy? What is more, it gives you exactly the right amount of exercise. Riding and sailing may be fun, but they don't get you very fit. Jogging, on the other hand, is too much work; you feel you may collapse at

any moment with a coronary. Cycling is great, but dangerous in London, where buses and taxis try to make a kerb sandwich of you. Rollerblading is about as energetic as cycling but - relative-

At any rate, you do it on the pavement, rather than in the road, and you wear protective gear. I have so far suffered blades, I had to nothing worse than a grab a passing lamppost and rather undignified graze to my

chin. I have not yet bumped into a pedestrian; as long as you slow down, it is no more hazardous to others than jog-ging past them. But there is the endless hassle of kerbs, wonky paving stones and roads to cross. Except on a few stretches - the edge of St James's Park, the very occasional smooth section of the Thames Path — it is hard to build up the all-important

rhythm and speed. ur whole family goes Rollerblading at weekends. We have tried Battersea Park, we have tried Hyde Park, we have tried the riverside in Hammersmith. We have yet to discover that perfect. Bournemouth-like nirvana where there is a long, even surface on which you can glide rather than judder (rough surfaces make your whole body vibrate, a feeling my daughter describes as

fizzy lemonade"). So I appeal to John Reid, the Transport Minister. This must be the most eco-friendly form of transport. It is silent, nonpolluting and uses no energy other than our own. It does not clutter up the roads, as cycles do. And it is beautiful to watch. Please, Mr Reid, allow us a few long, smooth paths in London, perhaps alongside the river. Grant me my modest New Year's wish, and you can even call it an "integrated Rollerblading strategy for the

millennium" if you like.



Lords on camera

The House of Lords has in recent years done pretty well out of television. In a way, it has deserved to. The authorities there allowed the cameras in a full four years before they were admitted to the Commons; and in that strange, hiatus period — from January 1985 to November 1989 — the TV viewing public took quite a fancy to the courtly manners and stately rhythms of Lords debates.

Later on, of course, after the possible and proceed

novelty had worn off and the regular coverage of actual proceedings became more intermittent, there were a few hiccups along the way. Their Lordships did not much care for indeed, a number of them jumped up and down in anger about it - a Cutting Edge documentary shown on Channel 4 in 1992 which dared to suggest that some at least of them saw the exalted body to which they belonged as a convenient means of indoor relief.

Particularly regrettable in such eyes was the prominence the programme gave to an hereditary peer a former bus driver from Brighton who could hardly believe his luck in being able to scoop up something like £100 a day from his per diem allowance whenever the Lords was sitting. This unfortunate peer was also thought to have let the side down waxing too lyrically on the delights of the tuck-shop — reserving his particular praise for the subsidised afternoon tea ("crumpets, muifins, teacake, something rather naughty with cream") served by motherly souls in the Lords dining room.

Almost equally unpopular was a Dispatches programme, again made for Channel 4, some three years later. This one went so far as to allege that one or two Noble Lords were "on the take" so far as outside lobbying interests were concerned. The charge was made before the full blossoming of the "sleaze" allegations in the Commons, so it lacked the impact it might otherwise have had. Nevertheless, especially as the Upper House has rather laxer regulations in this area than now pertain in the Other Place, it did succeed in leaving a rather nasty taste - one that Private Eve has done its best to exploit with its recent running feature on "Lords

for Hire" It may, therefore, have been with mixed feelings that peers of all parties recently learnt that the BBC was preparing a series of three programmes under the collective

Anthony Howard finds the BBC quaintly feudal in its approach to the filming of an outmoded institution

Courtly

manners

and

stately

rhythms

preserved

in aspic

(and to some, no doubt, menacing) title of Inside the Lords. Having had an advance look at two of them. I can safely say that any apprehensions can be laid to rest. Beautifully shot and marvellously evocative, this particular series would seem to have as its aim the preservation in aspic of a notably quaint and eccentric British

No one watching the first two programmes would get much idea of the arguments currently going on over the future of the Second Chamber. Admittedly, Lord Richard, the former government Leader in the Lords, is allowed to mumble away a

bit about the anomaly of having heredity as the basis of any legislative body, but his voice is soon muffled by that of Viscount Tenby. This grandson of Lloyd George emerges as a traditionalist of traditionalists. "It's not something you can go and trumpet around outside," he avers at one stage, "but my own very strong view is that, when all the huffing and pulling has died down, I doubt very much you'll have a better chamber than you've got now ... but

who cares about that when you have the great goddess of democracy dangled in front of everyone?" (His intensely democratic grandfather, who once famously spoke of the House of Lords as consisting of "a body of men chosen at random from the ranks of the unemployed", must, one assumes, be

turning in his grave.)
What this series lacks, in fact, is any feeling for history. Of course, in its antique shop version - the absurd "Garter" and all the other ridiculous bits of flummery — tradition perme-ates the screen. But there is a distinct diffidence (especially notable in Clive Anderson's surprisingly anodyne commentary) about tackling any of the issues that the history of the House of Lords has thrown up-over the past century and more. How, for example, did it come about that the three Reform Bills of the 19th century.

while progressively widening the popular franchise for the Commons. should have left the far greater democratic scandal of the House of Lords invulnerable and intact? It was certainly not what anyone expected at the time — even in 1832 it was generally assumed that, as an hereditary assembly, the House of Lords would be lucky to last a decade. Yet for the vert of the certain the Liver for the rest of the century the Upper House not only survived but flour-

ished. Why? The answer would seem to be that the hereditary peers genuinely did at that stage represent an Estate of the Realm - broadly, the landed interest. Towards the end of the century

they were fortunate, too, in finding an improbable ally in W. E. Gladstone. From the moment he first embraced the Home Rule cause in 1885-86, driving out the great Whig fami-lies from the Liberal Party in the process and, as a consequence, turning the · one-party chamber, he provided it with almost a licence to challenge the Commons. Even so, it took a good deal of brassneck arrogance for the

House of Lords in 1893 to defeat the second Home Rule Bill already carried through all its stages in the Commons — by an almost totalitarian majority of 419-41. The significant fact, though, is that

it did so with impunity - and the House of Lords has since gone on to establish a pretty shrewd pattern of conduct over its choice of populist. issues on which to confront the Commons. Yet it is hard to see even that as a sufficient explanation for its astonishing record of survival - at least since the Parliament Act passed under the Asquith Government in

In its preamble that first piece of legislation to put a bridle on the Lords gave a specific pledge that all hereditary peers would be removed from the Upper House within the term of the present Government" which, but for the First World War,

would have meant by 1915 at the latest. Yet, miraculously, the hereditary male element remained wholly undiluted — and totally undefiled by women — until 1958 when Harold Macmillan's essentially cosmetic Life. Peerages Act introduced not only the "dayboys", as they characteristically came to be called, but — much more important — women, for the first time, into the Second Chamber. (Did nobody, one can't help wondering, think it odd that, while female MPs could sit in the Commons from 1918 onwards, not even hereditary pecresses in their own right were admitted to the Lords until more than 40 years later — and even then the first one of them was obliged initially to take her seat as a life peeress?)

he sad truth is that nothing so vividly illustrates the inertia principle at the heart of British politics than the way in which the Lords have way in which the Lords have successfully withshood reform throughout this century. After the Kaiser had enabled the hereditary peers to make good their escape from Asquith and Lloyd George, they faced only one other serious challenge. That came in the shape of the Parliament (No 2) Bill of 1969. The product of the inventive mind of Dick Crossman, this immensely complex and detailed measure never really Lords into virtually a and detailed measure never really stood a chance of setting on to the statute book - least of all when an unholy alliance of Michael Foot and Enoch Powell resolved to fight it line-by-line on the floor of the House of Commons. After consuming to no avail 12 days of parliamentary time. the Bill was eventually and humiliatingly abandoned by a Labour Gov-

ernment headed by Harold Wilson. The next few weeks should show whether Tony Blair is made of sterner stuff. But the approach march to the battle has also revealed something else - that, despite all the changes made by Sir John Birt to its structure, the BBC remains an Establishment organisation at heart. Present its most talented film-makers with even the most antiquated and outdated part of our national fabric -and their automatic instinct will be to telebrate it with touchingly nostalgic pictures and deferential feudal

Inside the Lords starts on BBC2 at

8pm on Sunday.

comment@the-times.co.uk

maryann_sieghart@the-times. my skates down there for the Support role

PETER MANDELSON has found solace with Kevin Spacey, the private Hollywood actor, I am delighted to learn. Wendy was first seen revelling in the company of Spacey, who has migrated from Los Angeles to the more delicate climes of London, at the relaunch party of the Old Vic in October, and the two have been close since. My butler Owen noted in his

diary that the duo hit it off splendidly, but at the time I wondered if he had been at my gin again. But now Notting Hill charms of Mandelson, alarmed by his gloomy mood, are delighted that he has found light relief in the company of the charming American bachelor. Spacey, who I am told won an

Oscar for an entertainment enti-tled The Usual Suspects, is rather brighter than the usual Hollywood crowd (although he recently paired with Samuel L. Jackson in something called The Negotiator). He wowed aesthetes here with his portrayal of Hickey in the Almeida Theatre's production of The Iceeth earlier this year, even rivalling Nicole Kidman in warming the seats of London's coldest theatre critics.

"I've sort of maintained a vow of silence since I've been here. whispers Spacey. Twe been kind of happy to be quiet. I really have had the time of my life here."

 IS IT time the Financial Times was printed in German? As other



British newspapers devoted gener-ous column inches to the shoot-out in Yemen, which lead to the death. of three British hostages, the FT's headline on Thursday bristled with patriotic concern: Four Germans freed in Yemen".

Manic mum

THE mother of the Duke of Edinburgh is to be the unlikely subject of a biography by Hugo Vickers, the royal author. Clearly



private archive material at Windsor, Broadlands and Darmstadt. l just hope that the Duke likes the book. It will not be so discreet as obituaries, detailing how Princess Andrew of Greece, the sister of Lord Mountbatten, went into a Swiss sanatorium after a religious crisis. Nicknamed the "barmy nun", she spent the last years of her live wandering around Bucking-ham Palace in grey monastic full-flowing robe and coif. Quite why this needs to be raked over all these years on. I have little idea.

Blue year

GAZING into my Waterford crystal ball, I see a year of comebacks, dastardiy deeds and the odd strange vanishing.



gave him unprecedented access to countess to stop the sniggers.

Scandal will be provided by the PM - caught ducking into a

Geneva clinic to have his simian line removed. Regular readers will remember that my disclosure about what crossed Tony Blair's palm caused unkind chirologists to suggest that the PM was shifty, egotistical and quite possibly autistic. As the PM has off-loaded all other dodgy old baggage, I entirely expect him to avail himself of a plastic surgeon. Vanishing. The most amazing example will be the retirement

from society of the delightful Father Michael Seed, Roman Catholic converter to the gentry, who will go off to meditate and boil stew in a Scottish croft. He will be replaced as aide to Cardinal Basil Hume by his friend Peter Stringfellow, who has a similar eye for publicity that will help to get the cardinal noticed. In the media, I predict more welcome yanishings for that old harpy Polly Toynbee, whose Sixties witterings have sure ly had their day; for Taki, who has taken to invention in his rant in The Spectator; and of course Rosie Boycott. To everyone else, I send best wishes for a seriously swinging and scandalous new year.

RELATIONS between Americans and the Irish, normally so rosy, are strained at last. Sinead Cusack (above), the Cork actress who shares Jeremy Irons's bedchamber, believes she is being



discriminated against by Broadway. Starlets such as Nicole Kidman gain plaudits for working in the West End but strict American union laws prevent Cusack's countryfolk from wowing the Big Apple. This is not sour grapes, but our own actors should be given an equal opportunity," protests Sine-ad, suffering from tortuous foody metaphor syndrome: "It's all very well for those Americans being the cream in our coffee, but we don't want it all to turn to sour milk."

JASPER GERARD

Beware the euro yes-men

Paul Sykes calls for a frank debate on further unification

s the euro is launched into

uncertain waters, those who wish Britain to participate in economic and monetary union are already making predictable noises about how we cannot afford to be left is being deployed to prevent rational scrutiny of a project that will have profound consequences for Europe.

It is no surprise that those who advocate the abolition of the pound are unwilling to deal with the matter candidly. The apostles of unification have often given the impression that the democratic process is, in the short term, an inconvenience to be circumvented and, in the long term, an inappropriate mechanism for decision-making in the new Europe.
Hence Claude Cheysson, the former
Foreign Minister of France: "The
construction of Europe has taken
place because of intergovernmental
co-operation. We worked the normal democratic structures and that is

why we succeeded."

Nor should one assume that such attitudes are confined to the other side of the Channel. Hugo Young's book. This Blessed Plot, is littered with examples of cynical evasions on the part of British politicians and civil servants in their efforts to propel us

into an ever-closer union. The only reason the British people are to be given the opportunity to vote on the euro is because John Major sought to buy off Sir James Gold-smith's Referendum Party as the 1997 general election Joomed. Determined not to be outflanked on the European issue, Labour followed suit. What is proclaimed as a virtuous saleguard was, for Tony Blair, a necessary evil. How Peter Mandelson and other pro-Euro strategists must wish that Mr Blair had avoided giving that pledge. Without it, there is little doubt Britain would be far further down the

road to full participation in EMU. As the referendum approaches it is becoming clear it will be a truly momentous decision. The tortuous relationship between Britain and the supranational entity that, through mental laziness and intellectual sleight of hand, we have learnt to call "Europe" will come to a resolution. To vote "no" would create an almost insurmountable obstacle to further British participation in the grand project of European unification. The other EU countries would see it as

justification for divorce. Yet saying "yes" would undermine, perhaps fatally, the legitimacy of our domestic democratic institutions. If workers in my native Yorkshire found their jobs were disappearing because of the desire of unaccountable bankers in Frankfurt to prevent "overheating" elsewhere in the Union, they would demand action from their elected politicisms. How would they react if their MPs told them that there was nothing they could do? From this week interest rates are to be determined at an EU-wide level. for the supposed benefit of the European economy, and those charged with making such judgments cannot be sacked by anyone.

European level, despite Mr Blair's protestations. Tax harmonisation is not only a logical development of EMU, it is the avowed objective of the Finance Ministers of France and Germany. Even income tax is on the table. Those commentators who insist that no one has even suggested a European income tax have obviously not been listening to the President of the European Parliament. Will the hardpressed workers of Britain, white-collar and blue-collar alike, accept taxation without representation?

Issues of legitimacy and accountahility stir deep passions. In Britain one can point to the introduction of the poll tax, the closing of the coal-mines and the impact of Thatcherism on Scotland and Wales as examples of challenges to Westminster's right to lay down the law. It is impossible to govern without making hard choices and if these have a negative impact on people, it is vital that they accept the legitimacy of the politicians who have made the decisions and feel they can get rid of them, There is already resentment towards Brussels on the part of many Britons, even though only a small minority, notably our fishermen, have been harmed seriously by the EU. The United Kingdom has the fifth

largest economy in the world. We also have a functioning democracy that has survived many tribulations. No one presends we don't have problems, but they are not remotely of an order to compel us to abandon self-government.

For too long those who have sought, by fair means and foul, to secure British participation in the integration of Europe have been allowed to dodge the hard questions. Most of them know what they want - a de facto united states of Europe. If they have the honesty to declare that aim, we should respect their integrity while deploring their objec-tives and leave the British people to decide. However, should they choose to carry on with ever more implausible denials in the face of all the evidence, no quarter will be given.

The author is chairman of the Democracy Movement.

comment@the-times.co.uk



PRIDE OF NATIONS

Britain will stand stronger for staying out of EMU

Today is a proud and historic day for Europe and, even more so, for Britain. In continental countries, governments and political philosophers have been dreaming for centuries about the creation of a unified European State that would stretch from Brussels to Brindisi, from Berlin to Bilbao. Today's launch of European economic and monetary union (EMU) which will transfer the most important economic functions of the 11 participating governments from the national to the European level, is not only the culmination of more than a decade of political commitment and economic sacrifice for the major European nations. It is probably the biggest step ever taken towards the ideal of a full-scale European union - at least by democratic, as opposed to military, means.

if EMU appears a success, which in practice will be judged by whether the introduction of the euro coincides with a substantial reduction in unemployment, the momentum for further integration among participating countries will receive a major boost. Economic developments in Europe will, in truth, be largely a function of global events and of decisions on. deregulation and economic restructuring which still have to be taken at the national level. But if the introduction of the single currency does happen to coincide with the end of a decade of economic stagnation in Europe, the advocates of further integration are bound to claim vindication.

But even if EMU proves less successful, the initial effect may be to increase pressures for further centralisation. If EMU offers no salvation for Europe's unemployed — if, instead, it unleashes new waves of international competition and job losses — then Europe's politicians will naturally seek to deflect blame from the inherent flaws in the EMU blueprint, as well as from their own failure to undertake the necessary domestic restructuring. The

natural reflex of EMUs sponsors may well be to look for new ways of centralising economic decision-making at the pan-European level, beginning with Franco-German demands for tax harmonisation. Almost whatever happens economically in the next few years, therefore, European integrationists are likely to claim that EMU necessitates further steps towards full unification. In the long run, of course, it remains to be seen whether the disparate nations of Europe would submit quietly to the degree of centralisation and bureaucratic control implied by the EMU blueprint. But for the majority of continental politicians who are strongly committed to the long-term ideal of further integration. today's launch of the euro is a source of great pride, The same should be true of Britain.

Outside EMU Britain may rediscover its historic role as a great trading nation. deeply involved in Europe, but always independent and looking outwards to the rest of the world. Outside EMU, Britain will remain the world's fifth largest economy and a full member of the EU. Its pivotal position in the single market will be guaranteed not only by treaty but also by the fact that Britain will be easily euroland's largest trading partner. Like Sweden and Denmark, Britain should continue to prosper as an independent country. And although, as EMU pushes Europe lowards further integration, new arguments may arise for and against Britain joining, there should be no more economic or financial pressure on Britain to give up its independence than there has been on Canada to join the US, or New Zealand to merge with Australia. Britain's relationship with Europe cannot and will not be decided by businessmen and financial markets. It will be settled by British voters, according to their own judgments, and in their own good time.

GREEN SPROUTS

Rachel Carson planted the seeds of environmentalism

psychedelic ideals; but even as the age of the earth mother bloomed, a ripple of sharper realities of rapid industrial devel- and the nation state to the planet itself. opment. And, in the wake of the 1966 slagheap slip at Aberian which buried a school. or the oil pollution caused by the stricken tanker Torrey Canyon in 1967, a youth movement was beginning to grow up and wonder what sort of legacy

might be left to their offspring. In 1962 Rachel Carson had published her fierce polemic. Silent Spring. Marshalling empirical evidence of environmental damage done by chemical pesticides, she had exposed with steely authority the arrogance and folly of those who sought to conquer nature, disregarding the integrity of the natural world and the interdependence of all living things. The response of the Establishment was vi-

cious. Carson's scientific credentials were. impugned and her status as a childless, unmarried woman belittled. But as evidence of graver ecological damage kept coming in, public opinion remained stalwart. Silent Spring planted the seeds of an environmental movement which in the 1970s was to germinate and sprout into a mainstream political issue.

At first this Green movement spread by word of mouth among like-minded individuals, its ideals increasingly seeping out into broader society as the validity of its concerns became ever more apparent. In 1972 the classic research project Limits to Growth was published, setting the agenda this it anticipated a millennial mood.

The flourishing of the Sixties may have for a survivalist stream of thought. Its brought free love and flower power and conclusions were taken as evidence of a catastrophic fate awaiting man unless rising levels of production and consumpalarm was ruffling the grass roots of tion were curbed: Barbara Ward's Only society. Lackadaisical daydreams of living One Earth called for a fundamental shift in for the moment were pierced by the human allegiances away from the family

In 1972 Barbara Ward also presented a report to the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. Shortly afterwards the European Union decided to initiate the first environmental action

programme. The Values Party, founded in New Zealand in 1972, was the first Green party in the world, and the forerunner of the British Green Party was established, as the People Party, a year later. Environmental concern became as fashionable as kipper ties and platform boots. The politics of catalytic converters, power station scrubbers and bottle banks held sway. And a pattern was set for an ensuing decade in which the

environment, described by Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s as a "humdrum issue", came to be regarded, even by her, as "one of the great challenges" of the 20th century.

The focus of 1970s environmentalism was resource depletion. More recently this has been replaced by the idea that it is not so much scarcity of resources that causes the problem but the impact man makes on the planet by his use of them. But still, that decade when Green politics first put down their-roots established a precedent. The West took a serious look beyond the moment, beyond the next set of economic figures, to a more distant future. And in

ROMAN TYPES

PEOPLE OF

THE CENTURY

The number's not yet up for ancient numerals

For architects, film producers, kings, Popes, Olympic officials and families in which males pass their names to their sons the millennium bug has struck a year early. They awake today unsure of the date. For, unlike most of us, this eclectic group still counts in the system in use two millennia ago, dating its documents with an array of capital letters. And now (as wereport on page i column ii) there is a dilemma unforeseen by Caesar or those recording his epics in wide screen celluloid: does today begin the year MIM? Or MCMXCIX? Or even, long-windedly, MD-

CCCCLXXXXVIIII? Roman numerals are majestic, elegant and confusing. Some three centuries before the Year of Our Lord (impossible to represent in a system that has no zero), digital notation first took hold: holding apart his fingers and thumb a legionnaire chiselled a V on the milestone. And if Publius owed Claudius 10 sesterces, a double V or X could be gouged on a wax IOU. Larger numbers were difficult. Borrowing the Greek phi to represent 1,000, the Ancients simply added brackets either side of the L so that 100,000 was written as (((I))). The Columna Rostrata, erected to commemorate victory over the Carthaginians, repeated this symbol 23 may last a year, we shall all know what we times to give the figure of 2,300,000.

The confusion may last a year, we shall all know what we will celebrate in the year MM.

The rules are not cast in stone. Bored masons took short cuts, and the subtractive principle caught hold. By the Middle Ages four strokes had been replaced by IV - for everyone except horologists. To this day. the clock stands still at X to IIII.

The system does not add up. Mathematics had to wait for the Arabs. How the Romans crossed hill and dale in such straight lines remains a mystery, as the finest surveyors in the land could not build Britain's first motorway (the 1001) without curves. But complexity has its advantages. No one can complain that the BBC is repeating old material, for by the time you have begun to work out MCMLXXXVIII the credits have rolled past. Lingering in front of a handsome town hall, you have time to admire its lines while you decipher its cornerstone. And if you are called James Baker III, you can always insist that the tax demand should have been addressed to your father or even your grandfather. instead.

Writing a month in Roman numerals could resolve the transatlantic confusion between 6 September and June 9. It would add joyful tension to the lottery if all balls were Roman. And it connects us to our forebears: for though present confusion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

but keep UK out

From Sir John Craven and others

Sir. The advent of the euro is a time to wish the new currency well. No British interest will be served if our European parmers have an unstable currency. Nevertheless, it remains right for Britain to stand aside from this politically driven venture. Our business cycle is different from that of Germany and France. And our investment and trading patterns are different: British industry and commerce do more business in dollars than in all the European currencies combined.

Within the single market, but outside euroland, the prospects for Brit-ain are bright. We have the fifth largest economy in the world and one of the most competitive; our political and trading interests reach around the globe, and our information-based industries are ideally suited to the 21st century. We will be able to set our monetary policy to suit our own conditions — an advantage which outweighs the modest gains to be derived from a regional currency zone.

After the euphoria of the euro's launch, grand vision will give way to practical realities. Upward harmonisation of tax is still urged on us as a logical consequence of EMU. The City, for example, faces the threat of a withholding tax on savings, which would be immensely damaging for London's vast international capital-market operations. An inward-looking Europe, with an overgrown public sector, has not yet recovered its ability to create jobs. The euro is no panacea for these problems. It could we'll exacerbate them.

Having restored sterling's reputation for financial discipline, let us have the confidence to keep it. What is right for Britain will be good for Europe 100.

Yours etc, JOHN CRAVEN, Chairman, Lonhro. TIM CONGDON, Managing Director, Lombard Street Research, WALTER ELTIS. Emerinas Fellow, Exeter College, Oxford, GERARD LYONS, Chief Economist, Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank (DKE) international, TIM MELVILLE-ROSS. Director-General, Institute of Directors, BRIAN PRIME.

SAINSBURY of PRESTON CANDOVER, WOLFSON of SUNNINGDALE, Chairman, Great Universal Stores, Business for Sterling, 18 Buckingham Gate, SWIE 6PE.

Federation of Small Businesses,

Desert Fox strategy

From Air Commodore Alastair Mackie

Sir. Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon (letter, December 23) interprets the Desert Fox strategy as engaging the enemy's war fighting capabilities at long range instead of fighting eyeball to eyeball when you Surely it wasn't that we didn't need

to but rather that we couldn't. In the absence of the huge forces needed for a land war, wasn't our strategy simply to see what air power on its own could do? And given an enemy with some very nasty weapons indeed and a known propensity to use them, were we not, and are we not still, facing the grave risks consequent on air power not having achieved very much?

Yours faithfully, ALASTAIR MACKIE, 4 Warwick Drive, SW15 6LB. December 24.

From Mr Ian Mayor

Sir, Your columns have carried extensive comment on the problem of identifying the real objectives behind the Iraq airstrikes by the US and Britain. A clue may be provided by Michael Theodoulou's report of December 21, in which he quotes Said Aburish, the Palestinian who is writing a biography of Saddam Hussein, as saying: Don't bomb them [Iraqis on the ground]. Pull back and say, "If he [Hussein] goes, you can export all the oil you want to re-

build the country." Are the UK and US Governments afraid of the impact on the price of oil which could come about from such a policy statement?

Yours faithfully, IAN MAYOR, 53 Bushwood Road. Kew, Surrey TW9 3BG. December 22.

Ramblers' wrongs

From Mr Mark Shore

Sir, I do not wish to take sides in the "right to roam" issue, but the photograph of ramblers on your back page today might in a small way throw light on some of the landowners'

objections. Three of the ramblers are shown standing on a farm gate; one rule of the countryside is, if you have to stand on or climb over a gate, always do so one at a time at the hinge end (basic physics, actually).

Yours faithfully, MARK L SHORE. 73 Wooburn Manor Park, Wooburn. High Wycombe HP10 0ES.

Wish the euro well Multiple causes for decline in wild-bird numbers

From Mr Gavin Weightman

Sir, As an obiniary of British wild birds Derwen: May's article in today's Weekend section. "Where have all our birds gene?", is cautious and considered. However, in my view, it falls into the trap of overemphasising losses and underplaying gains.

For instance, there is ample shrubby habitat in Britain to support a much larger population of nightin-gales than arrives each summer and, since we are in the northern extremity of their range, their southward retreat may have nothing at all to do with the British environment. Our magpie population grew in the 1970s, spread-ing southwards from the Midlands. While the carrion crow is now very common in London, rooks disappeared from the capital in 1916 and the jackdaws left Hyde Park in the 1960s.

Skylarks, so rare now in many parts of the country, are abundant on the military firing ranges of Salisbury Plain and on the vast landfill rubbish dumps to the east of London. Song thrushes have been declining for a number of years, but mistle thrushes thrive. Great crested grebe, nearly extinct in Britain at the turn of the century, are now common, nesting on the lakes in London parks.

House martins, which returned to Central London after the Clean Air Act of 1956 had taken effect, have, inexplicably, recently disappeared from my area. In the countryside the planting of winter wheat seems to have favoured wood pigeons.

Perhaps such fluctuations are nor-mal, it is certainly far 100 simple to blame them on the growth of industrialism. If the decline of sparrows in towns, for instance, is related to the disappearance of the once vast population of horses (as it may well be), is that an ecological disaster, or something we should calmly accept? Black-birds were apparently much rarer in the 19th century than they are today: like robins and dunnocks (hedge sparrows), they are a woodland species

that took to suburban gardens.

The natural world is wonderfully resilient and quick to exploit new opportunities. I wish the song thrushes would return to my back garden (they used to sing at night) but I really do not know what to blame for their disappearance. It is a sad and mysterious decline, but that is no reason to blame it on ourselves.

Yours faithfully, GAVIN WEIGHTMAN. 15 Kelross Road, N5 2QS. December 26.

From Mrs Elizabeth Sigmund

Sir, Congratulations on publishing Derwent May's article, I was amazed, however, to find in it no mention of the horrific effects of the use of pesticides and fungicides on wild birds.

Insecticides cause the death of thousands of our wild birds. Some of their effects are indirect: killing insects de-prives birds of essential food. Others are direct: since the seeds of grain, vegetables, salad-crops and fruit are treated prior to planting, and then regularly sprayed with pesticides and fungicides, seed eating birds are poi-

It is a terrible fact that our desire for "perfect" food can cause the destruction of these creatures, in the name of "scientific progress".

Yours sincerely. ELIZABETH SIGMUND (Co-ordinator, Organophosphate Information Network). Heathfield Farmhouse, Callington, Cornwall PL17 7HP.

From Mr Alasdair Laine

Sir, Derwent May makes a strong case for a reappraisal of agricultural practices to allow our bird populations to thrive in the wild. However, until the consumer is prepared to pay the real market price of food produced less intensively - either through shop prices or taxation to support environmental subsidy - farmers will have linde choice but to operate as efficiently as they can if they are to survive.

Yours faithfully. ALASDAIR LAING. Logie House, Forres, Morayshire IV36 2QN. December 28.

From Mr Rod Attrill

Sir, Here in western Wales there is little arable farming. The "endanger-ed" skylark (letter, December 26) is a daily delight above our fields, while swallows still nest in our barn and linnets and meadow pippits abound. Red kites, ravens and peregrines are

also common. I do have one major concern. though. In the autumn, while the hedgerows are still laden with berries. they are drastically flailed - cut back so that all new growth, leaves and ber-ries included, is removed. This both reduces cover for birds and deprives them of a valuable source of pre-winter feed.

I can understand the hedges being cut after the birds have finished breeding; but let's leave it until the new year, when they have also fin-ished feeding.

Yours faithfully, ROD ATTRILL, Motygido Farmhouse, Llanarth, Ceredigion SA47 0NU. rod@attrill.freeserve.co.uk December 26.

Penalties of an error of judgment

From Mr Alastair Albright

Sir, Since when was it a crime to aspire to better things or attempt to climb above one's station, or to lend money to a friend on preferential terms, or indeed without demanding interest at all?

Sadly, in today's Britain, no one can do such things honestly, decently and with genuine generosity without aspersions' being cast, innuendos and shurs being made as to one's motives, and even accusations being levelled of corruption, critical misjudgment or dishonesty (letters, December 23, 24,

26, 29 and 30). Tony Blair should stand by minis-ters who fall foul of an envious, meanminded and uncharitable press, in the spirit of the society he wishes to foster and proclaim, namely a Christian and a classless one.

Yours sincerely. ALASTAIR ALBRIGHT, 64 Paddenswick Road, W6 OUB. December 28.

From Mr John D. Hart

Sir, I understand that prisoners serving a life sentence may not be eligible for parole unless they admit that they are guilty of the crime for which they have been imprisoned. Should not government ministers who resign or are sacked for having shown a lack of judgment, while protesting that they have "done nothing wrong", be banned from holding any public office un-

til they accept they have done wrong? Should not any MP who has been forced to return to the back benches in such circumstances be obliged to seek a vote of confidence from his or her constituents through a by-election?

Yours faithfully, J. D. HART, Hill House, Marlesford, Wickham Market, Suffolk JP13 0AZ.

Sir. The loan of £373,000 from Geoffrey Robinson to Peter Mandelson is for some of us "pretty gut-wrenching stuff" [report, October 19, of Mr Mandelson's comments on General Pinochet's claiming diplomatic immu-

Yours sincerely, NEIL WORKMAN, 11 Park Crescent, Pontyclun, Rhondda-Cynon-Taff CF72 9BR. December 29.

From Mr Toby Jessel

Sir, "Honourable" (letters, December 30)? Remember Emerson: The louder he talked of his honour, The faster we counted our spoons (The Conduct of Life, 1860).

Yours faithfully, TORY JESSEL The Old Court House, Hampton Court, Surrey KT8 9BW.

December 30.

The ultimate irony From Professor Kenneth Minogue

Sir. The concept of irony in your columns is getting out of hand.

One correspondent on December 19 thinks it ironic that we are sending goodwill Christmas cards to friends and dropping bombs on Iraq at the same time: another on the same day derives from our entry into the European Convention on Human Rights coinciding with the Pinochet decision being set aside because one judge is a public supporter of human

The first example is no more ironic

than the fact that we enjoy mushrooms and avoid toadstools; the second is simply untrue. The judg-ment of the law lord in question has been set aside for the quite different reason that he was judge in a case where he belonged to the same organisation as one of the plaintiffs an evident issue of natural justice.

The concept of irony has already run amok in academia; is it now becoming the pomposity of choice in

Yours faithfully. KENNETH MINOGUE. 43 Perrymead Street, SW6 3SN. December 19.

Addressing postcodes From Mr Roger Macdonald Smith

Sir, Mr Ray Perkins (letter, December 28) is not alone in wondering why we are still expected to use full postal addresses despite the existence of postcodes. Some seven years ago, curious to

test the system, I posted a letter to my-

self from Kenilworth bearing only my initial and surname, and my postcode. It reached me here in Cornwall after about ten days. Various frankings on the envelope testified to a tortuous journey; among them was one which read: "Please use the postcode." Four years ago I tried again. Posted this time in Nuthall. Nottinghamshire, with a second-class stamp. my

letter reached me within 24 hours.

There's hope yet. Yours faithfully, ROGER MACDONALD SMITH. Mill House, Trehaddle, Cusparne, Truro TR4 8RN. macsu99@macsmith1.freeserve.co.uk December 29.

From Mr Keith Harrison Sir, I endorse all that Ray Perkins says about postcodes. I have sent let-

ters quoting only the postcode and on

all occasions the addressee has told me that the Post Office has written the street address on the envelope before delivering the letter.

KEITH HARRISON. 16 Dovedale Close, Cardiff CF2 5LS. keith@keithharrison.freeserve.co.uk December 29.

From Mr Reg Gale

Yours etc.

Sir, Many of us have the habit of putting our own addresses on the backs of letters we send to families and friends abroad.

I always put simply: "GALE FORCE TEN CV35 0AQ UK", which is sufficient worldwide, I am sure.

I have the honour to be. Sir, your obedient servant, REG GALE. Force Ten, Spinney Close, Redlands Farm, Lighthorne, Warwickshire CV35 0AQ. December 28.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Aonach Mor avalanche

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, Your report today on the Aonach Mor tragedy (later editions) indicates that, according to unnamed experts, a category three avalanche warning on a scale of one to five put out by the Scottish Avalanche Information Service was unlikely to deter "well-equipped" climbers from going out.

Mr Wilde's party was apparently fully and properly equipped and that had no bearing whatever on the fact that the slope they were on avalanched. If a category three warning will not deter or cause modification of plans, what will? Perhaps the inquiry will determine the issue in a meaningful form. (I write as someone who has survived an avalanche.)

Yours faithfully, PETER WOOD. Duntisbourne Abbots, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 7JN. December 31.

Yachting pioneers

From Major M. C. Lewin-Harris

Sir, I really must applaud you and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston for his article on the Sydney-Hobart race, 'Tested to the limits" (December 29). Having taken part in the 1979 Fasmet race (and come to grief, albeit not terminally) I can fully support the need for challenge, which was never more Important than it is today.

Now, as a cruising yachtsman, I can not only enjoy my pastime, but do so in comparative comfort and safety. This is thanks to the many developments which only happened because people like Glyn Charles, or Pete Goss, who rescued a fellow competitor in the Vendée Globe race in similar conditions (reports, December 27 and 28, 1996), or indeed Sir Robin himself, are willing to accept such challenges and, in doing so, develop the necessary equipment to meet them head-on.

Long may this spirit continue.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL LEWIN-HARRIS Vice-Commodore, The Royal Cruising Club). Conquest Farm, Norton Firzwarren, Taunton TA2 6PN. musketeer@dial.pipex.com December 30.

Off target

From Mr Tony Collins

Sir, One of the items Santa left in my stocking this year is a book, The Archers (Virgin Publishing Ltd), I see from the back cover it is classified as "general non-fiction".

Is there something we should be

Yours sincerely TONY COLLINS. 37 Chaucer Road, Hillside. Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 5RP. tonycollins@dawdler.demon.co.uk December 27.

Up to speed

From Dr Paula Moore

Sir. As a regular traveller by Eurostar, my husband received a Christmas card from them. It arrived on December 29. It seemed most appropriate.

Yours sincerely.
PAULA MOORE, I Northfield, Braughing Ware, Hertfordshire SĞII 2QQ.

Social

news

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will be present at the Maundy Service in Bristol Cathedral at 11.00 am on Thursday April 1. Her Majesty will distribute the Royal Maundy during the

New Year's Day birthdays

Dr Jack Birks, company chair-man, 79: Lord Colwyn, 57: Mr John Fuller, writer, 62: Lord Ringsland, QC, 57: Baroness Lloyd of Highbury, 71; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 81; Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 75: Colonel P.A. Porteous, VC, 81: Mrs Pa-tience Purdy, former presi-dent, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 70; Mr J.D. Salinger, author, 80: Lord Swansea, 74.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificenti, Florence, 1449; Huldreich Zwingli, Swiss reformer, Wildhaus, 1484; Katherine Philips, poet, London, 1631; Paul Revere, American patriot. Boston, Massachusetts, 1735; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackbourton, Oxfordshire, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; Sir James Frazer, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; Henry Handel Richardson (pen-name of Ethel Florence Lindesay), novelist. Melbourne, 1870; E.M. Forster, novelist. London, 1879; William Fox, film produc-er, Hungary, 1879; Martin Niemoller, anti-Nazi priest, Lippstadt. Germany, 1892; J. Edgar Hoover, founder of the FBI, Washington, 1995; H.A.R. (Kim) Philby, British double agent. Ambala, India, 1911; Jack de Manio, broadcaster,

DEATHS: William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; James Francis Edward Stuart. the "Old Pretender". Rome, 1766; Johann Christian Bach. composer, London, 1782; Heinrich Hertz, physicist, Bonn, 1894; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect. London, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, actor and singer, Paris, 1972; John Aloysius Costello, Prime Minister of Ireland 1948-51 and 1954-57,

The Daily Universal Register trenamed The Times on January 1, 1788), was founded, 1785. Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland came into force, 1801.

The Commonwealth of Australia was established with Edmund Barton as the first Prime Minister, 1901. The British Broadcasting Cor-

poration (formerly Company) broadcast its first programmes, 1927. The farthing ceased to be legal tender, 1961.

Britain entered the Common Market, 1973.

Church news Appointments

The Rev Michael Gudgeon, with permission to officiate (Chichester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Worthing St Andrew

(same diocese).
The Rev Dr Michael Harrison, Priest-in-Charge, Eltham Holy Trinity (Southwark): appointed Vicar, same benefice. The Rev Nicholas Helm, Vicar, Sheffield St Bartholomew (Sheffield): to be Bishop's Chaplain, and Adviser in Spirituality (same diocese). The Rev David Heslop, Chaplain, Course Leader and Tutor in Pastoral Studies, University of Derby: to be Vicar, Castle Donington and Lockington cum Hemington (Leicester). The Rev Richard Jackson Curate, Lindfield (Chichester): to be Vicar. Rudgwick (same

University news

Ulster The University of Ulster has announced more than £4.5 million in funding for research projects. They include: Research Grants

Property Comproved Solar cell performance in building integration).

formance in building integration).

Charities
Professor J A Owan, £125,000 from
Positive Ethos Trust (£MU promoting schools project).

Dr C Hudson, £49,431 from the
British Diabetic Association (Factors influencing in diabetic maculopathy.

Professor D T Sines, £45,000 from
the Ulster Cancer Foundation (Lectureship in cancer nursing).

Dr T Robson, £30,251 from the
Cancer Research Campaign (Manipulation of P450 gene expression
in tumours).

Research Contracts

Research Contracts Professor F C Monds, £920,000 from CEC - Peace & Reconciliation (Technology and Software Incubator Centre). Professor J J Strain, £328,408 from MAFF (Functional stratkers of optimal nutritional status for copper).

Dr A Cooper, £300,731 from the DOE Environment Heritage Service, (Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2000).

Professor H F McMahon. £292,000 from HEFEC/DENI (Infusing teacher education with the new technologies). Dr A Cooper, £212,864 from CEC -LIFE (Biodiversity action on indus-trial sites).

professor D McKeag, £200,904 from Department of Trade & Industry and £148,800 from Ford Motor Co (feaching Company programme).

programme;
Professor M E C Huff, E195,919
from CEC - ESPRIT (Successful
user-centred systems engineering
development and environment). Professor B Norton, £195,367 from MTP. (Manufacturing Technology

Partnership).

Dr J Carmichael, £145,579 from the Department of Health, (Life and Health Technologies (Northern Ireland).

land.

Professor S E Calrus, £125,700 from the John Templeton Foundation, (Forgiveness and the reduction of inter group conflict).

Dr E T McAdams, £128,678 from CEC - ESPRIT, (Micro-Card; Sibased multifunctional microsystem needle for myocardial ischemia monitoring).

monitoring).

Dr MDJ O'Neill, Mrs TM Scott, E101,704 from DTI and NuPrint Fabric Converters (Teaching Com-

osny programme).

pany programme).

Dr P Lyle, ES,152 from CEC –
INTERREG (An integrated geographical approach to the preliminary assessment of potential waste
disposal sites).

Professor K E O'Neill, E79,600
from Department of Trade &
Industry and Graham & Heslip,
(Teaching Company programme).

Dr T M McGinnity, E77,904 from
Department of Trade & Industry,
FORBAIRT, the International Test
Technologies, (Teaching Company
programme).

Professor R McIlhagger, E76,904

programme).
Professor R McIlhagger, E76,904
from the Department of Trade &
Industry and from William Ross &
Co (Teaching Company pro-

gramme).

Dr R J Millar, £76,900 from DT1 and I Pennick & C Pennick (Teaching Company programme).

Professor D McKeag, £76,900 from the Department of Trade & Industry and Uni-Drill (Teaching Company programme).

Ms C M Shapeon, £56,689 from CEC - Telemanes (Distance education in rural areas via libraries).

Dr B J Murraek, £52,100 from

tion in rural areas via novaries).

Dr B J Murtagh, £52,100 from CCRU (integration or division: Community dynamics and social capital in a nused area).

Professor I Rowland, £49,866 from MAFF (influence of human gut microflora on dietary soya isoilavone phytoestrogen bioavailability in adults and children).

in admits and children Professor J J Strain, £46,000 from Waitham Centre for Pet Care, (Feline antioxidant and Immunolog-

Dr G P Parr. £45,000 from Fujitsu Telecommunications Europe (Intel-ligent mobile agents for distributed

Mr W G O'Neill, £43,000 from the North Eastern Education & Li-brary Board (Reading Recovery Centre).

Centre).
Professor H P McKenna, E34,783
From Rotunda Hospital Dublin.
(Midwifery skills mir project).
Dr G P Parr, E34,780 from CEC Telematics (Telematics for communication and health). Professor J J Strain, E30,500 from Starkist Scalood (USA), (Donation for generic research in nutrition).

for generic research in nutrition).

Ms G M Robinson, £27,200 from
the Northern Ireland Housing
Executive (Northern Ireland Life
and Times Survey).

Professor I Rowland, £25,400 from
ORAFT (proteive effects of prebiolics against colon cancer).

Professor G D Baster, £24,574 from Meditech International Inc (Toronto), (Laser therapy in the management of musculoskeletal Professor D T Sines, £30,000 from Mona Grey, (Mona Grey nursing research studentship).

The night sky in January

By Michael J. Hendrie ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY is in the morning sky but too near the Sun for observation this month.

Venus is a brilliant evening object of -3.9 magnitude, set-ting in the southwest 2 hours after the Sun by the 31st. The waxing crescent Moon will be

near by on the 18th and 19th.

Mars is in Virgo rising about midnight by the 31st.

During the month it brightens from 1.0 to 0.6 magnitude as it approaches opposition in April, when it will be at its brightest and closest to the Earth. Mars will be 4 degrees north of the bright star Spica about the 8th and the Moon will be close by on the 9th.

Jupiter passes from Aquari-us into Pisces during Janu-ary, still a very bright -2.2 magnitude. It sets in the west about 21h by the 31st. Moon just to the south on the 21st. Saturn is 0.6 magnitude and in Pisces. By the end of the month it will be setting

about midnight. Moon near-by on the 23rd-24th. Uranus and Neptune are in Capricornus throughout 1999. Both are too close to the Sun for observation this month, Neptune being in conjunction with the Sun on the 22nd and

Uranus on 2nd February. The Moon: full Moon 2d 03h, last quarter 9d 14h, new Moon 17d 16h, first quarter 24d 19h and full Moon 31d 16h. There will be two full moons in January and two in March but none in February this year. There will be a penumbral eclipse of the Moon on the 31st but the Moon will be only slightly darkened and will not rise in the British Isles until after mid-eclipse, so the event is likely to pass unnoticed. The Moon will be near the bright star Regulus in Leo on the

The Earth will be at perihelion, its closest to the Sun, on 3d 13h (147 million km). Algol, the eclipsing binary star in Perseus, fades from 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69

4th-5th and near Aldebaran

in Taurus on the 26th-27th.

hours. It can be seen when faint this month about 14d 03h, 17d 01h and 19d 21h. Sunset on the 1st is at 16h 00m and on the 31st at 16h 45m while sunrise is at 08h 08m and 07h 40m on the same dates. Astronomical twilight ends at 18h 05m and 18h

06h 05m and 05h 45m. January is often the best

45m early and late in the

month and begins again at

TWO Ancient Greek bronze statues

inem reimonnes

found off the coast of Italy were probably

analysis of their day has shown. Specific

details of the cores' composition also

suggests that one statue was remodelled

centuries after its original casting.

The discovery of the two lifesized nude

statues, probably of warriors or athletes,

in 1972 caused a sensation: Classical

bronzes of such a scale rarely survive.

They were found by fishermen near the hamlet of Riace, in Calabria, and a

tug-of-war immediately began between regional and national authorities over

where they should be displayed: the

Italian Government wanted them in

Rome, the Calabrians in their capital of

Reggio, near the toe of Italy, where they

would be a source of local pride and

The Calabrians won, but the figures

were sent to Florence for conservation

and study. It was determined that both

dated to the 5th century BC, but, as Gianni Lombardi and Massimo Vidale

report in the Journal of Archaeological

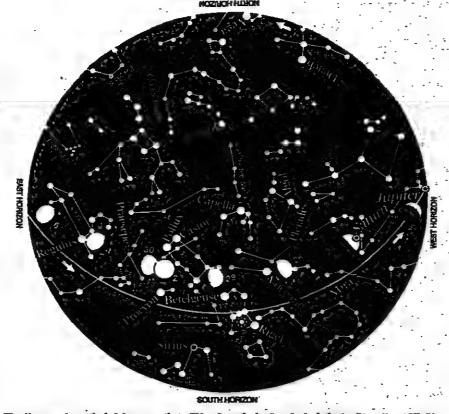
Science, it was difficult to determine the

It was generally assumed that they had

been lost during a shipwreck, but since no remains were found, no date could be

circumstances or the date of their loss.

tourist income.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (il pm) at the beginning. 22h (il pm) in the middle, and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one lour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the renith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

month to see the winter constellations. At the time of the chart the most easily recognised of all the constellation figures stands astride the merdian. Orion the hunter is due south, the right way up and at his highest in the sky. Betelgeuse at his left shoulder is a giant red star, slightly variable in brightness, but unlike Algol, in an irregular and unpredictable way. The brightness is 0.5. magnitude. Rigel by Orion's right foot is bluer, is 0.1 magnitude and of higher surface temperature. It is farther away from us, 910 light years compared with 310 light years for Betelgeuse. Below Orion's belt of three

bright stars lies M42, the Great Nebula in Orion. This is visible to the naked eye but even low powered binoculars show a splendid glowing cloud of gas and dust with several stars imbedded within it. In even a small telescope the Orion nebula is a beautiful sight, greenish in colour and showing much whispy structure. It is part of a large area of dust and gas that spreads over most of the constellation of Orion, M42

being just the brightest part. A line sloping down from Orion's belt towards the left (east) leads the eye to the blue star Sirius the brightest star in the sky in Canis Major (Greater Dog). As it is never very high in our sky it often scintillates wildly, flashing red, blue and apple green. Sirius, also known as the dog star is 1.5 magnitude and is

only 9 light years away. About half way between Betelgeuse and the Pleiades lies another red star, Aldebaran, in Taurus. This 0.9 magnitude star is 68 light years distant. About an equal distance to the east of Beteigeuse is 0.4

magnitude Procyon, princi-pal star of Canis Minor (Lesser Dog) in this inconspicuous constellation. Further still to the east is the bright star Regulus (1.3 mag.), brightest star of Leo Major (Greater Lion). Above Procyon lies Gemini (Heavenly Twins) Castor (1.6 mag.) and Pollux (1.1 mag.) forming their heads. with the horizon, but set in the northwest almost upright feet first with Castor and Pollux disappearing last.

This change in orientation of the constellations as they cross the night sky is one of the factors making identification difficult. Another is the apparent change in size: the figures look larger near the horizon than when higher in the sky. This also applies to the Sun and Moon.

Much has been written about the Moon Illusion and many causes proposed most of us perceive objects to be larger when near the horizon though they are no larger: if anything, distance and refraction combine to make them slightly smaller than when they are at their highest point.

The Times Night Sky 1999 contains monthly star charts and notes. The total eclipse of the Sun in August and majo meteor showers are covered. Published by Times Books (price £4.99) it is available in The figure of Gemini, roughly a long rectangle, is tilted to the equator. The Twins rise in the northeast lying parallel good bookshops or by ringing the HarperCollins Credit Card Hotline on 0870 900 2050 (p8p free within UK)

470-460BC, and almost 700 from the younger, of 440-430BC. A battery of

plasma emission spectrometry, and palae

ontological analyses were used to deter

mine the chemical composition and

mineral and fossil content of the clays.

The day cores themselves were most

closely matched in Euboca. Attica and the

northeastern Peloponnese, all in southern

Greece of these, the plain of Argos near

modern Nauplion is the best candidate. Dr Lombardi and Dr Vidale say.

ous, anomalies were found around the

armpits. In the younger statue, the anomaly embraced the use of gypsum, a

novel material, which, combined with a

high lead content in the arms, suggested

their replacement in the later Hellenistic-

Roman period: the whole right arm and

the left forearm were renewed, in a slightly different pose from the originals.

statues could not have occurred until

several centuries after they were cast,

perhaps during the Roman sack of

conquered Greece, when many works of

art were taken to adorn Rome and glorify

Source: Journal of Archaeological Science

its Emperors.

This in turn showed that the loss of the

While most of each core was homogene-

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.Sil. Bailey and Miss A.E. Mitchell The engagement is announced between David St John, son of Mr and Mrs Harry Bailey, of Cheart. Surrey, and Alson Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Mitchell, of Westerham.

The truesgement is announced between Lance and off wand Mrs A.K. Christopher, of Poole, Dorse, and Mrs A.M. Christopher, of Poole, and Tina, daugher of Mr and Mrs A.C. Goreham, of Royal Tumbridge Wells, Kenr.

Tumbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr E.T. Coffor
and Dr L.S.M. Slocock
The engagement is announced,
between Eddie, younger son of Sir
John and Lady Coffox, of Dorset,
and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs
Michael. Slocock, of SouthoverHouse, Tolpuddie, Dorset.

House, Tolpuddie, Dorset.

Mr R.A. Dickson
and Miss L.I. Houses
The engagement is announced
between Richard Alexander, son of
Mr and Mrs lan Dickson, of
Mussidan, France, and Louise
ingrid, daughter of Mr and Mrs
Bernard Hohmes, of Chinstead,
Surrey.

Dr B.I. Denneh

Surrey.

Dr P J: French

and Miss V J. Draper

The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr and Mrs Terence French, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Vanessa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Draper, of Old Skelmersdale, Lancashire.

Lancashire.
Mr V. Golding
and Miss V. Heller
The engagement is announced
between vincent, elder son of Mr
and Mrs E. Golding, of Canterbury, and Vivienne, elder daughter
of Mr G. Heller, of Wonchester,
and Mrs S. Heller, of Southamp-

and Mrs S. Heller, of Southampton.

Mr N.E.L. Graves
and Miss N.L. Gordon-Duff
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mrand Mrs Brian Graves, of Tillington, West Susser, and Nicola lanthe, only daughter of Lieuenant Colonel and Mrs Roderick Gordon-Duff, of Rushall, Wiltshire.

Mr D.B. Levelin

Mr P.R. Jarvis and Miss T.E. Morham and Mess J.E. Mornam
The engagement is announced, from Australia, between Philip Rolf, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Jarvis, of Winchampton, Dorset, and Tara Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs Paul Mosham, of Armidale, New South

Wales.
Mr B.B.E. Lane
and Miss S. Bird
The engagement is announced
between Ben, younger son of Mr
and Mrs T.F.E. Lane, of Aston
Climnon, Buckinghamshire, and
Samantha, elder daughter of Mr
and Mrs T.C. Bird, of Albion
Street, London W2.

Dr P.A. Miller
and Dr C.C.M. Hughes
The engagement is announced
between Paul Anthony, son of Mr
K. Miller, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs A. Miller, of
Eton Wick, Windsor, and Catherine Colla Mary, daughter of Mr
and Mrs W.H. Hughes, of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire.

and Mis HJJ. Hasting
The engagement is produced between Cwyn, elect son of Mr and Mrs Cyril Morris, of Cardigan, Dyfed, and Helena, youngest daughter of Mrs Isobel Hunting and the late Mr Richard Haigh Hunting, of West Byfleet, Surrey.

Mr R.I. Schlich and Miss S.A. Simpson
The engagement is armounced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Schlich, of Uppingham, and Sophie, daughter of Mr David AG. Simpson, and Mrs Janey Simpson, of Hastings, Sussex.

Mr D.M. Swinnerton
and Miss M.C. Nicholas
The engagement is announced
between David, son of Mr and
Mrs Michael Swinnerton, of
Aldridge, Staffordshire, and Melissa, daughter of Mr Jonathan
Grant-Nicholas, of Brassington,
Derbyshire, and Mrs Justine Nitholas, of Urchield.

Mr P.D. Thouson
and Miss R.R. Baster
The engagement is announced
between Peter, son of Mr. and Mrs
Ian Thomson, of Chelsea, and
Rachel, younger daughter of Mr
and Mrs Robert Baxter, of Windlesham, Surrey.

The P.S. Thomson

Dr R.S. Thomson
and Dr A.J. Marriott
The engagement is announced
between Richard, younger son of
heart Horsley, Surrey, and Alison,
elder daughter of Mr and Mrs
Richard Marriott, of Lasborough,
Clouvestarshire.

Mr M.J. Tomfinson
and Miss R.V. Mynors
The engagement is announced
between Michael, elder son of Dr
Howard and Dr Heather Tomfinson, of Harley Court, Hereford,
and Frances, second daughter of
Str Richard and Lady Mynors, of
Treago, St Weonards, Herefordshire.

Mr S.J. Ward and Miss I.M. Perry The engagement is announced between Smarr, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Ward, of Kingsoed, Monroouthshire, and Jill, you daughter of Mr and Mrs Perry of Tilshead, Wiltshire.

Mr I. Weir and Miss S. Varley The engagement is announced between lain, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Weir, of St Andrews, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr Christopher Varley and Ms Anne Eddell.

Latest wills

Sir Horace Heyman, Chair-man English Industrial Estates Corporation 1970-77, member, Supervisory Board Zurich 1955-84. Director UK Group 1965-86, of Whitburn, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, left estate valued at £215,541 net.

He left £5,000 to the Tyne and Wear Poundation, Ellison Place, Newcastic upon Tyne, to set up two scholarships in the name of his wife Lady Dorothy Heyman and The Hanne Henrisson; £3,000 to Breathe North northern branch of the British Lung Foundation, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Viscount Greenwood, of Bright-Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £29,209 pct.

He left £5,000 to Grays Inn to found a scholarship in memory of his late father.

Lady Beryl Caroline Rees Mayhew, of Coiney, Norwich, left estate valued at £1,064,959 net. She left \$2,000 to Royal Norfolk and Sulfolk Yacht Club; £1,000 each to Royal Yachting Associa-tion, Beccles Sailing Club, Waveney and Oulton Broad Yacht Club; and Norfolk Broads Yacht Club; plus shares in her estate to 24 charitable organisations.

Lady Amy Mary Brabin, of Hamp-stead, London NW3, left estate valued at £901,389 net. Lady Jean Elizabeth Lockburt-Munumery, of Winchester, Hamp-shire, left estate valued at £428,159 net.

George Albert Grauge, of Baildon, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £8,691,348 net. Peregrine Philip Dorney Palmer, of Dorney, Windsor, Berkshire, left estate valued at £7,373,065 net. Margaret Elizabeth Crook of Thatcham, Berkshire, left estate valued at £6,360,395 net.

Kenneth Maurice Williams, of Clarendon, Salisbury, Willshire, left estate valued at £6,743,102 net. He left £1,000 to both Salisbury Cathedral and St Martin's church, Salisbury; plus the remainder of his estate between Royal Masonic Hospital, Princess Louise Scottish Hospital, St John's Ambulance Brigade, Salisbury, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Battersea Dogs Home, PDSA, and the RNLI. Ernest William Lancaster-Platt, of Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, left estate valued at £2,298,288 net. He left £1,000 each to RAF Benevo

He left £1,000 each to RAF Benevo-lent Pund, Royal British Legion Puppy Appeal, Salvation Army, Blesma, Midland Society for the Blind, Terence Higgins Trust, MS Society, and Parkinsons Disease Society; and Egod to Ambassador College, Boreham Wood.

Eva Renée Catheart of Aiskew Bedale, North York-shire, left estate valued at £1,103,609 net. She left 22,000 each to the Samaritans, Riding for the Disabled, SSAFA, Campbill Trust at Botton Village, and Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign. Michael Alexander Hunter Christie, of Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at 11,376,910 net.

John Duncan Surge Cole. of Chaiton, Waterlooville, Hamp-shire, left estate valued at £1,325,231 net.

He left £500 to both Pinewood Dog Sanctuary, Ascot, and the Wild Bird Sanctuary, Cornwall. Frank Hill, of Winton, Bournemouth, Dorset, left es-tate valued at £1,575,174 net. Winifired Agnes Holt, of Winchmore Hill, London, N21, left estate valued at £1,557,784 net.



MILLY ALLEN

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BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

Greek bronzes cast in a new light

Norman Hammond

reports on a mystery

surrounding the

origins of two nude

Classical statues

assigned. The Florentine restorers discov-

ered that much of the original casting

cores remained inside the statues, howev-

er, and recently new techniques of micro-excavation using remotely controlled cameras and digital imaging were applied to remove samples safely over a

The cores of the legs and torso were found to have been made of separate

slabs of clay mixed with animal hair and

formed around iron bars, one of the

standard techniques for large Classical bronzes. Complex joins between the legs

and torso also suggested that the cores were assembled and disassembled more

than once before the wax coating used in

Almost 300 core samples were taken Source Journs from the older statue, dating to 25: 1055-1056.

lost-wax casting was applied.

two-year period.

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

DOMESTIC &

DIRECTORY

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever. Psalm endures for 118.1 (NIV)

BIRTHS ACHESON - On December 29th 1998, to Diana (née Francis) and Andrew, 2 daughter, Tara Armsbelk Rosalind, a sister for Arthur.

BLAKISTON HOUSTON - On 21st December to Lucind 21st December to Lucinda and Dick, a son, Michael

COSTARY - On 24th December at Greenways, Chippenham to Amanda (née Norman-Thorpe) and Lan, a son, Samuel Harry Edward. Edward.

DAVEY - On 21st December
1998. to Kevin and Rachel
(née Robb) a practious son,
Harry Leathley Edward,
a wonderful brother for

a wonderful brother for George. Eri-HydiOJ - On 21st December at St. Thomas' Hospital to Calliope (nee Palice) and Theodore, a beautiful daughter, Alexandra, a sister for Marie-Eleni and Anna. FAROLHARSON - On 29th December 1998 in Milan BIRTHS HAYNES – On 19th December 1998 to Grazielis and Philip, a beautiful son, Cabriele Philip Affred.

VIRLIAMY - December 15th to Laurence - TV Produce and Madeleine Mitchell -violinist, a daughter, Zerlina Evelyn Anna.

WHITEY - At Darlington to Alistair and Sarah (née Johnson) on 29th Decamber 1998, a daughter, Amber Marina Alisha. WHITE - On 27th Decembe 1998, at Wycombe Gener Hospital to Joanna (née Shard) and Jonathan, a son, Cameron Jemes, a brother for Alexandra az Francesca.

> To place death notices. acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DEATHS

December 28th, Much loved husband of Mary, and father of Sinces, Ann John and Cindy, Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Requiem Mass at the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Cheyne Row. Chelese, SWJ on Friday, January 8th 1999 at 2pm followed by private buri Any Inquiries or Floral tributes to Chelese F/D 0171 352 0008. Douations if desired, to the Reyal Brompton National Hear

GOODCHED - Ronald Cedric Osbourns (formerly Bishop of Kensington), aged 83. On December 25th, 1938, died, full of grace, at home with his beloved wife, Jean, and his five children. Funeral 2.00pm, Saturday 2nd January 1939, St. Nectan's Church, Welcombe, near Bideford, North Devon. Flowers (not wreaths please) c/o II. Fulford, Springfield, Hertland,

Nancy (née Barnam Ken Cuars) or namen Acm.
Peacafully on December
30th 1938. Beloved wife of
Kenneth and much loved
mother of Richard Cornist
and Wendy Markel. Sadly
missed by granddaughter
Christins, daughter-inlaw Christins, and son-inlaw Bennett. Funeral Road, Harworth, Feitham Middlesex on Friday, 8th Jennary at 10.30 sm. Family flowers only to

HOSES - Dr. Mary Hobbs.
FSA recently Cathedral
Librarian, died pesceful;
no 29th December 1988.
Funeral in Chichester
Cathedral at 12.00 noon,
8th January 1999. By
request no Howers, but
donations to St. Wilfrid's
Hospice, Grosvenov Road,
Chichester PO19 2FP.

KHRISON - Derak Cuffe.
Passed away peacefully at
home Christmas morning
December 25th 1938 aged
88. Devoted husband of
the late Marjore Pattison
Johnson and much loves
jather of Trevor and Nigel,
and their families. Fumeral
Service and cremation will
take place in the New
Year. Enquiries to J H
Kenyon Pumeral Directors.

bravely borne, Roger, age 75 years. Much loved husband of Jo and father outsome of to and name of Louise of Louise, stepfather of Janette, and the late Tarusa. Funeral Service will be held at St. Michael's and All Angals Chartch, Shalbourne on Teachay 5th Innuary 1859 at 11.20 am, followed by burial in the churchyard. Family flowers only.

Family flowers only please, but donation Nuffield Orthopsed Nuffield Orthopsedi: Centre Appeni may be to Thomas Free & Sous Ltd, The Parade, Mariborough, Wiltehire SNS INE. Tel: 01872 512110.

MEY - Round Bertram (Roul.) Peacefully at home on December 28th. Much loved husband of Many and father of Rossmary. Puneral at St. Edmand's Church, Southwold. Theader, Lemmy 12th as Tuesday January 12th at 11.00am. No flowers

Christias Day, Michael, much loved son of Betty, brother of Thouthy, unappression of Fineral 2.30pm on Thursday 7th January 1998, at 5t. Mary's Worplendon, Family However only, donations if flowers only, denation desired to British Dia

SOSEVEARE - Scott Jeremy Spice, dearly beloved son of Jay and Zemi, much loved brother to Blake and Tamsin, died in a tragic accident in the early bourn of Christmes morning. Private funeral. Service of Thankegiving to be held at 3 evices on Saturday 6th Pebruary at St. Mary's. Bentworth, Hampahire. All enquiries to John Steele and Son, Winchester 01962 846044.

To place death notices, chaowledgeroents or notice picase call 0171 680 6880

METH-MASTERS - On the 18th December 1998 at Highfields Residential Higheron Renominal
Home, Mariborough,
Anthony aged 82 years.
Formerly of Mariborough
College, Funeral service
will be held at 5t George's
Church, Preshnise on
Thursday 7th January 1898
at 2pm. All sequiries may
be addressed to Thomas
Free & Sone Ltd. The
Persde, Mariborough,
Withhire SNS INE Tel:
01672 512110.

WATIS - Sybil Muriel
Haynes, Dearly loved
mother of Louise and
Nicholas died pescafully
at Mayday Hospital,
Croydon, on Decamber
29th. Family flowers only
piesse but donations if
desired to National
Osteoporosis Society, 4/o
A. Smith Funeral
Directors, 394 Wrythe
Lane, Carehalton Surrey,
SMS 1AF. Tak 9181 644
9507.

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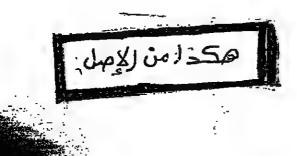
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OBITUARIES

MICHAEL SHERARD

Michael Sherard, conturier, died on December 26 aged 88. He was born on July 17, 1910.

ichael Sherard was one of London fashion's L V L leading lights in the immediate postwar period, when it seemed possible that Britain's couturiers might wrest the lead from Paris. That dream was dashed by the wave of enthusiasm for Dior's New Look, but Michael Sherard held the creative ground more convincingly than any other London couturier during the 1950s, until he was swept aside by Mary Quant and the new, home-grown young de-signers of the next decade. Michael Sherard was born

in Kingston upon Thames imo a family which had produced many prominent figures in the town's public life; his grandfahis father a leading local lawyer. The second of six boys.

Sherard was christened Malicia colm, but at the outset career, in the late 1940s, he decided that Michael would roll more smoothly off the tongues of Mayfair's fashionable set.

Educated at Berkhamsted and the Westminster School of Art, Sherard gained his early fashion experience as an apprentice with Peter Russell, who was a rarity even in 1930s London, a huntin', shootin', and fishin' dress designer. Sherard always recalled him as a tough businessman as well as a shrewd operator with customers. Sherard was his personal assistant from 1931 to 1940, when he went to work in the censorship department of the Admiralty.

In 1945, with financial assistance from his family; he opened his couture establishment in Connaught Street. later moving to Curzon Street, the epicentre of London's fashionable life in the 1950s.

Though he started on a shoestring, Sherard became fashionable very quickly with an upper-class clientele which in those days went to a couturier for good coats, well-cut suits and fabulous ballgowns. He provided all three. though his heart was in product.
ballgowns most of all. During He loved designing for film
the life of his fashion bouse, he and the theatre, and many of produced 35 countre collections, one of which he sold in its entirety to the American Phyllis Calvert, were to re-fashion store Marshall Field, main friends for the rest of his which remained a loyal customer for many years.

fest Wills

5 -1-2

. 5

767

Although he designed whole-



In the 1950s Sherard was one of London's best hopes of displacing Paris for fashion

label; he was never happy working this way, because as a romantic and a perfectionist. he found it too impersonal, and he preferred to have hands on control over the final

the stars he dressed for public and private occasions, such as main friends for the rest of his life. He was involved in more dress Fonteyn herself.
than thirty West End product In 1948 Sherard became a tions and created the ward-

long run. As a ballet lover, he was thrilled to be chosen to provide the personal wardrobe for Margot Fonteyn short-ly after the war when the Royal Ballet went on a promotional tour of North America. Several couturiers had been asked by the Government to design wardrobes for the ballerinas as a boost to the British fashion industry, but it was a feather in Sherard's cap to-

member of the Incorporated sale collections, to be produced robe for the leading lady in Society of London Fashion anonymously and without his The Mousetrap twice in its Designers, signalling official

acceptance of his stature in London fashion. Encouraged by the Government and chaired by Lady Pamela Ber-ry, the society included the top designers of the time and did much to reassert London's position as a fashion centre after the war, especially with American buyers.

Sherard's working methods were traditional. Murray Ar-beld, the dressmaker to Diana Princess of Wales, who trained with him (as did Caroline Charles), recalls that Sherard's drawings were almost like stick figures. They were

essentially practical working tools, which showed precisely how a dress was to be made. though Sherard was aiways happiest when draping directly on the model.

He was at his best in the traditional couture crisis wiren. in the last 24 hours before a presentation, a couple of extra dresses have to be designed and made, with nobody sleeping the night before and an exhausted workroom getting them out on time for the show.

Sherard's largely socialite clientele loved his puckish wit, but they frequently burdened him with requests for daughters and nieces to become fashion models. His way of putting them off without of-fending them was worthy of Noel Coward. His house model. Patricia, was exceedingly tall. He made her a magnificent deep red velour coar trimmed with Persian lamb and almost sweeping the floor. It was an important piece of clothing, and great skill was needed to carry it off. When "debby" girls were brought in, he used to ask them to try on this coat. The resulting picture of the girl entirely swamped and looking ridiculous was enough to put off the most persistent mother without offending her amour propre.

Overwhelmed by financial problems. Sherard closed his establishment in 1965, but continued his involvement with fashion as a lecturer and consultant. He advised fashion students in Miami and was principal lecturer at the London College of Fashion from 1966 to 1975. In his retirement his great interest was his involvement with the Girdlers' Livery Company in the City, which he had joined when he was 18, becoming Master for 1959-60, in 1961 he masterminded the decoration of the company's new head-quarters, which was described at the time as Tittle Versailles

in the City". Michael Sherard was never really given the recognition that his ability deserved. With his talent, he should have been a major and continuing figure in London fashion, but his gifts were overshadowed by the more strident self-publicity of other members of the Incorporated Society. He was forced out of business by rising costs, not lack of skill, as the examples of his clothes in various costume collections amply testify. If some of his grander colleagues were rather sniffy about him at times. they certainly could never fault his talent.

SIR HAROLD KENT

Sir Harold Kent, GCB, QC, former Procurator-General and Treasury Solicitor. died on December 4 aged 95. He was born on November 11, 1903.

HAROLD KENTS last big assignment as Procurator-General and Treasury Solicitor, was to instruct the Anorney General and prepare the papers for the 1963 Vassall Tribunal. Chaired by Lord Raddlife, the tribunal followed the jailing for 18 years of the Admiralty clerk John Vassail, a homosexual who had been blackmailed into spying

for the KGB.

Ken: himself interviewed Vassall at some length and stayed with the inquiry until the bitter end, which included the imprisonment of two journatists who had refused to disclose their sources. Having been appointed KCB in 1954, he was advanced to GCB in 1963 in recognition of the enormous workload the Vassall case had imposed on him.

He later retained some links with security issues, serving on the Security Commission between 1965 and 1971 and on the 1971-72 committee set up to re-examine Section Two of the Official Secrets Act. Before starting his ten years as Treasury Solicitor in 1953, Kent had established his reputation au a parliamentary

counsel. As such, he was involved not only in framing much of the emergency legislation during the war, but in the heady sequence of nationalisation measures introduced by the Anlee Government after 1945, including the Act which established the National Health Service. Yet at one time it looked as if he might make his name not so much as a lawyer but as a thriller writer.

Harold Simcox Kent had been born at Tientsin, China. where his father was working as a barrister, specialising in Anglo-Chinese commerce. At the age of eight Harold was sent home to prep school in Malvern, travelling on the Trans-Siberian Railway with his brother, who was only a year older. He won a scholarship to

Rugby, and another to Merton College, Oxford, where he took a disappointing second in Greats. He was then called to the Bar in 1928. Kent started writing who-

dunnits to supplement his meagre earning as a young the matter barrister with a new wife to to deal. support. He finished his first, The Black Castle, while on honeymoon on the Norfolk

BRYAN MACLEAN



Kent in the 1930s: in his early years he wrote whodunnits

Broads. A national newspaper celebrated the first publications of two "interesting new writers" in one week, one being Kent and the other Leslie Charteris, creator of The Saint. But the paths of the two newcomers soon diverged. Although Kent followed up his early success with The Tenant of Smuggler's Rock, the costs of fatherhood and house purchase prompted him to seek refuge in more regular employment as a junior parliamentary counsel.

From Whitehall he joined the Royal Artillery at the start of the Second World War but a duodenal ulcer, from which he had suffered for some years, took a strong dislike to army food. He was invalided out within weeks. After the Vassall Tribunal,

he took the option of retiring at 60 to become the Church of England's first Standing Counsel, first to the Church Assembly and then to the General Synod. This involved him in drafting church legislation, so returning to the kind of work he loved best. The so-called "Pasioral Measures", enabling the grouping of parishes and ministries, were among the matters with which he had

He held the post for eight years, also serving on the Church and State Commission, und as a creative lawyer he did much to free the Church from state interference in issues of "worship and doctrine". He went on to occupy a succession of largely voluntary church appointments. He became Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, Dean of the Arches (in effect the Church's most senior judge and Commissary to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's.

He took silk in 1973 at the age of 70, and was awarded a doctorate of civil law four years later. In 1979 he gave further evidence of his literary gifts by writing an amusing autobiography, In on the Act. In parallel with his work for

the Church of England, he became an active churchgoer in his retirement, serving as churchwarden at Chipping Campden. A tall, quietly spo-ken and scholarly man, he kept up his knowledge of the Classics and enjoyed studying the New Testament in its Greek texts together with a local group of similarly inter-

He married his wife, Zillah, a state-registered nurse, in 1930, after meeting her in the hospital where his mother was recovering from an operation. She died in 1987 but Kent, who lost his only daughter more than 30 years ago, is survived by a son.

WILLIAM ALLEN

William Allen, CBE. architect and architectural theorist, died on December 14 aged 84. He was born on June 29, 1914.

ALTHOUGH of Canadian origin, William Allen spent his professional life in Britain and earned a high reputation in two specialist fields: as an architectural scientist and as a teacher and lecturer. He had a long connection with the Building Research Station at Wat-ford, which he joined in 1937, immediately after arriving in England, and where he was: chief architect, 1953-61. He then became Principal of the Archi-tectural Association School of Architecture, 1961-66.

In 1939 he published Sound Transmission in Buildings Transmission in (written with R. Frizmaurice), and he was to remain a leading expert on all aspects of architectural technology, espe-cially acoustics and lighting. He and his partner, John Bickerdike, were frequently called on to advise on technical problems that had arisen in old and new buildings, and as acoustic and lighting consultants. They were the archi-. tects for the concert hall in stalled and altered over the Manchester for the Northern College of Music, notable for its acoustics, and were acoustic consultants for the Festival

MR. E. H. HILLMAN:

- AIRWAY PIONEER

Mr. Edward Henry Hillman, managing director of Hillman's Airways, Limited, and

the former motorcoach proprietor, died suddenly at his home at Gidea Park, Essex,

yesterday, aged about 45. Fie had been suffering from high blood pressure.

At one time in humble circumstances, Mr.

Hillman rose to become one of the most

important transport operators in Great Britain. He was the pioneer in this country of inland airways, and he later extended his

services to Le Touquet and Paris. It was his boast that he never had a day's schooling. His

mother died when he was only two years old, and he had to make his own way in life. When

and he had to make his own way in me, when he was nine he obtained employment binding brushes. Two years later he joined the 2nd Battalion, The Essex Regiment, and was sent

to Malta as a bandboy. He afterwards transferred to the cavalry and fought throughout the War, at the end of which he was a

sergeant-major. Returning to civil life Mr. Hillman used his Army bounty to buy a monorcar, which he let out on hire. With the proceeds he opened a cycle repair shop in Romford.



Hall in London and for the Gulbenkian Foundation concert hall and museum in Lisbon. They continued their work

as consultants long after Allen. had retired from teaching and from full-time practice. For example, in 1988 Allen and his partners were asked to devise a comprehensive new lighting scheme for the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace, built in the 16th century and later refurbished by Sir Christopher Wren and Grinling Gibbons. Although the chapel had not been touched by the fire of 1986, the lighting inyears had made Gibbons's elaborate wood carving almost invisible, and the choristers and worshippers were un- daughter and two sons.

able to read in comfort. There was also a glare that made the wall decorations difficult to see. Bickerdike and Allen, working for the Property Services Agen-cy, devised a lighting scheme that discreetly dealt with all hese problems.

William Alexander Allen was born in Canada, the son of a surgeon. He was educated at schools in Winnipeg and at the University of Manitoba, where he won the gold medal for architecture in 1936. The previous year he had been awarded the silver medal of the Royal Institute of Architects of Canada. In 1938, the year after he came to England, he was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, of which he was to become a Fellow in 1965. He served on the council of the institute from 1953 until 1972 and again from 1982 until 1985.

He was also chairman of the Fire Research Advisory Committee: 1973-83, and president of the Institute of Acoustics. 1975-76. For this work and for. his many papers on aspects of architectural science, he also won awards in Canada, America, and Portugal. He was appointed CBE in 1980.

In 1938 he married Beatrice Mary Teresa Pearson, who survives him, along with their

Bryan MacLean, singer and guitarist, died on Christmas Day after a heart attack, aged 52. He was born in Los Angeles on September 25, 1946.

BRYAN MACLEAN was a member of the 1960s group Love; for whom he wrote Alone Again Or, one of the most enduring and evocative songs of the era. The band's truly creative period, under the leadership of the unpredictable Arthur Lee, was brief, curtailed by an unhealthy appende for hard drugs. Yet by the time Love disintegrated they had recorded some unforgettable music and one classic, Forever Changes (1967), a record which continues to appear prominently in polls of the best albums of all time.

Within a year of producing their masterwork, the original band had fallen apart, and by 1970 MacLean had left the music business and found religion. He later re-emerged as a writer of Christian music, but he will always be remembered for his part in the soundtrack of that distant summer of love" with which his group shared a name.

MacLean came from a wealthy home in the Hollywood Hills, where the composer Frederick Loewe, the writer

of My Fair Lady, was a neighbour. He declared the boy a prodigy at the age of three, and MacLean grew up steeped in musicals rather than rock'n roll. Liza Minnelli was an early girlfriend, and the two would sit at the piano

He never married.

together playing show tunes.
Yet by the early 1960s the
Beatles had made the guitar irresistible and MacLean left high school to become a roadie for the Byrds. In 1965 he failed an audition to join the Monkees, when he was one of 437 hopefuls who replied to an advert in the Hollywood Reporter, but he soon joined forces with the maverick Lee in a band called the Grass

Most American groups of the time gravitated to San Francisco, but after changing their name to Love, the LAbased band built a reputation playing the clubs on Sunset Strip. A residency at Bido Lito's brought them to the attention of Jac Holzman, head of the Elektra label, home already to such folk artists as Judy Collins and Tom Paxton. Holzman was looking to break into the rock market, and Love became the first band he signed. The Doors were the second.

In 1966 and 1967, Love made three impressive albums, clearly influenced by the Byrds and the Beatles but with an interesting psychedelic strangeness all their own. Although Arthur Lee was the main writer. MacLean contributed some fine songs, including Orange Skies, Old Man and the haunting Alone Again Or. with its flamenco-style guitar and dramatic trumpet

flourishes. Unformmately a combination of the drugs and Lee's unstable personality was rendering the band increasingly dysfunctional. There were lurid tales of group members robbing doughnut stands to support their drug addiction. Their name should be Hate rather than Love," remarked Peter Albin, of the San Francisco band Big Brother and the

Holding Company. By 1968 Love had splintered, leaving Lee the sole original member. "At least two of them were irrepressibly hooked on heroin. I felt I needed to get out Friday night Bible classes, while the going was good. Friday night Bible classes, The state of the s



Bryan MacLean (far right) with the other members of Love in their late 1960s heyday

January 1, 1935

ON THIS DAY

Edward Hillman was a true transport pioneer. After he had built up a fleet of motor coaches starting with one car, he ran a cross-Channel air service; one of his first pilots was the famous woman flyer Army Johnson

Hillman built up the substantial foundations Hillman out up me sugraman numations of the large business he controlled at the time of his death. They grew from very small beginnings. Mr. Hillman bought his first coach in 1923, and with himself as driver and his son as conductor ran a service between Romford and Chelmsford. It was at first lar from successful, and on occasions it was necessary to borrow money to buy petrol. But at last success came to him. In time he was. able to acquire more and more coaches until.

by the beginning of 1930, he owned a fleet of comford.

It was as a motor-coach proprietor that Mr. over 200 and operated extensive services.

between London, Romiord, and Chelmsford and along the East Coast. His enterprise and initiative were unbound-

ed. He was said to be the first motor-coach proprietor to offer penny fare stages and to issue motor-coach season tickers between the City and the suburbs. He was quick to see the possibilities of civil aviation and turned his attention to that mode of transport in the early part of 1932

His initiative and organizing power again produced rapid development. He started with a small fleet of aeroplanes running between Romford. Ramsgate, Margate, Broadstairs, and Clacton. He extended his services to other parts of the country. He believed that aviation could be run on strictly business lines, and he startled civil air circles by offering air transport at 3d a mile a passenger — half the fare then usually charged. Early in 1933 he started an aeroplane service to Le Touquet, and in April of the same year loangurated two services daily both ways between London and Paris. For a time be employed Army Johnson as one of his cross-Channel pilots. She was the

first woman to be so engaged.

The formation of Hillman's Alrways, Limited was announced on December 18, with an authorized capital of £150,000. Hillman's Airways, Limited, stated yesterday:
The business is being carried on as usual."

Maclean later said. Two of on Rodeo Drive called the Forssi and John Echols -were soon serving prison sentences, but MacLean was also addicted. He secured a solo deal with Elektra, but abandoned music and became a born-again Christian. The nurning point, he explained, was sitting in a New York bar and feeling his drink "turn to

He returned to live with his parents in Los Angeles, did various manual jobs and obtained a real estate licence. But a Christian fellowship called the Vineyard was taking up increasing amounts of his time. He started singing at

sand" in his mouth.

the group's members - Ken Daisy, and served ten years in the ministry. He also began writing songs again, including several hits for country-tinged performers such as Debby Boone and Patty Loveless.

There were various attempts to re-form Love, which were hampered by arguments over past royalties and soured relations between MacLean and Lee, who is currently serving a 12-year sentence for firearms offences.

MacLean briefly led a band bearing his own name in the early 1980s which included his half-sister Maria McKee, but when she formed the critically acclaimed Lone Justice he was invited to contribute only as a writer.

been more interest than ever in the work of Love and its former members, Ifvoubelievein, released in 1997, was a collection of original MacLean demos and home recordings from the 1960s: Alone Again Or has recently been used in an American beer commercial; and at least two books about Love are in the pipeline. At the time of his death MacLean was working on what he called an album of "worship music".

In recent years there has

MacLean is the second original member of Love to die within a year, after Forssi's death from cancer last January. He never married and is survived by his mother and a half-sister.

THE TIMES TODAY

Euro dream becomes reality

European dreamers finally saw their cherished hope become reality at midnight when 11 countries signed away their sovereignty over monetary policy and the single currency was born.

The birth of the euro was marked in Brussels with a mass balloon launch and toast poured from methuselahs of champagne as ministers spoke of a great moment in history and set their sights on deeper political and economic union. But there were Pages 1, 11, 12 still sour notes amid the rhetoric

Jenkins admits wine ban plan

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead admitted that in 1968 he was the architect of a secret Labour plan, codenamed Brutus, to ban foreign holidays and stop luxury imports. French wine, Swiss watches, avocados and out-of-season strawberries were are on the list to ...Pages L 4, 5 save the economy...

Missing girls hunt

Migraine danger

a breakthrough.

pressure...

Weekend...

Railway sued

Police are hoping that the discov-

ery of a car belonging to a runa-

way couple who vanished with

their two foster daughters will be

YOUNG women who suffer from

migraines are three times more at

risk of a stroke. The danger in-

creases if they smoke, take oral

contraceptives or have high blood

SECRET police forced a survivor

to change his testimony about

how his wife died in the bungled

rescue attempt, to remove any

suggestion that Yemeni troops

The Clintons are seeing in the

new year as usual at the upmar-

ket resort of Hilton Head, off the

coast of South Carolina. They

have joined a crowd of other high

achievers assembled for the annu-

al off-the-record Renaissance

....... Page 9

... Page 12

fired the fatal shot....

Clinton holiday

Hostage pressured

Refugee appeal

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will today appeal for greater public understanding of the 50 million refugees throughout the world, who have been uprooted from their homes by persecution, war or natural disaster...

Prescott 'on board' John Prescott insisted he was "ful-

ly on board Tony Blair's modernising crusade as he tried to repair the impression of a Cabinet riven

Father's fight

A father told how he fought for three and a half hours to keep his nine-year-old son alive in icy waters after their fishing boat sank. As Lewis Vowles kept slipping into unconsciousness his father and two friends sang and cuddledPage 3 the boy...

Avalanche ordeal

The young couple buried beneath an avalanche told how they lay unable to move for 16 hours, not knowing if the other was alive or dead. Sarah Finch, 25, and Steven Newton, 24, were recovering from mild hypothermia.....Page 3

On the run

Charlie Whelan, The spin-doctor who prides himself on being just a mobile phone call away from journalists, was successfully evading a press manhunt.......Page 6

Happy new mm ... or something Welcome to the year MIM, as the Emperor Flavius might have said. Then again, he might have preferred to wish his subjects a happy new MCMXCIX. Or should that be MCMXCVIIII? Some guidance would have been useful; 23 centuries after the invention of Roman numerals, confusion reigns as to how they



Common seal pups at the seal hospital in Scarborough Sea Life Centre after rough seas had left them stranded on the shore

City tear: London is stenoing up its

campaign to win over hearts and minds among Europe's financial movers and shakers and prevent the City from losing its long-held pre-eminent place as Europe's fi-.Page 40 nancial centre... of the Yemeni hostage massacre Carpetbagger: The Bradford & Bin-

gley, the UK's second biggest building society, faces an attempt by a quantity surveyor to force it to convert into a bank and therefore make windfall payments to around 2.5 million people.... Page 40 Pensions: More than 100 small independent financial advisers have missed the deadline to organise compensation for clients in the first stage of the pensions mis-selling re-

view, the Personal Investment Au-

thority said last night ____ Page 36

Cricket: Ashley Giles, the Warwickshire slow left-arm bowler who arrived in Australia on Tuesday as part of England's one-day squad. has been added to the party for the final Test when England have to win to draw the series ____ Page 21 Football: Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal coach, gave a warning that the FA Carling Premiership was in danger of taking over from Italy's Serie A as the chosen abode for football-

ing cheats... Page 21 Tennis: Petr Korda said that he had postponed his retirement after the findings of a positive drug test were recently made public Page 22 Rugby union: By the end of the season players in England should be in no doubt that the employers will

Déjà view: Two things strike Richard Morrison about the cultural revolution of the 1990s. The first is that it is a revolution. Satellite, cable, digital and now interactive television, the home computer and the internet - all these have changed leisure habits irrevocably... Page 29 Bear-balters: Benedict Nightingale salutes a trio of Soviet playwrights

who dared to defy Stalin, and paid Raves from the grave: David Sinclair reviews the hits made up of songs that had sold militons for the

likes of George Michael, Phil Collins and U2. ... Page 30

These we will love: Caitlin Moran forecasts the rise of Beth Orton, the emergence of the Beta Band and the return of Oasis Page 31

Sloping on: Warm, windproof, long-lasting - and good for posing. It's the perfect ski suit ____ Page 14 iron man: Sean Bean used to be a welder in Sheffield. Now that he is one of Britain's sexiest actors, has he left his roots behind? Page 15

Business of learning: Can business leaders really make a difference in deprived corners of the educational Eternal students: David Blunkett is raising the profile of his campaign for lifelong learning Page 28

Self-destructing: From his early ventures into spin, Peter Mandelson showed an excessively combatve attitude .__ Better than sex: How popular newspapers have found something that sells more copies than scan-

dals stories....

It may take some days to sort fact from fiction but already the incident raises questions about terrorism in the region and the wisdom of tours which intentionally seek out "adventurous" destinations, "Adventure' tourism is also risky tourism that should always be approached with at least as much prudence as a sense of daring

-The Sydney Morning Herald

review: A look at some favourite childrens programmes (BBC1, 4.05) Review: A rare interview with Stanley Baxter Pages 38, 39

Pride of nations

Today Europe takes the biggest step ever towards unification. Outside EMU Britain may rediscover its historic role as a great trading nation, deeply involved in Europe, but always independent and looking outwards

Green sprouts

Rachel Carson's fierce polemic The Silent Spring, helped to plant the seeds of an environmental movement that flourished in the 1970s. The West took its first serious look beyond the moment, beyond the next set of economic figures, to a more distant future...

ingland in Giles pin opt

Roman types

Debate is raging as to how 1999 should be written in Roman numerals. But despite the confusion, the use of these ancient numbers is still

ANTHONY HOWARD

The BBC remains an Establishment organisation at heart. Present its most talented film-makers with even the most antiquated and outdated part of our national fabric -and their automatic instinct will be to celebrate it.....

MARY-ANN SIEGHART It was for Christmas 1997 that my husband gave me a pair of Rollerblades. Ever since, I have enjoyed a f lasting enthusiasm.....

PAUL SYKES

No one pretends we don't have problems, but they are not remotely of an order to compel us to abandon self-government.......Page 16

Michael Shearer, countrier, Sir Harold Kent, treasury solicitor; Willlam Allen, architect; Bryan Ma-

Britain and "Euroland"; decline in wild birds; Mandelson's fall; avalanche; yachting pioneers. Page 17

3, 13, 18, 24, 34, 49. Bonus: 33

A Jewish Frenchman whose par-ents were deported by train and murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz in the Second World War is suing the state-owned French railway for alleged "crimes against humanity".... ...Page 13 should be used to indicate the year 1999

Inside 1925 1925 and Link Roads Nacional Motorweys Consensated Europe

Weather by Fax

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Sun sets: 4,01 pm

9336 401 410

TOMORROW.

IN THE TIMES

GIFT OF READING

Valerie Grove on why the reading bug is the best gift you can give your children

WRITE STUFF

Enter meg@s young writer's competition and win ESOO worth of children's books

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,989

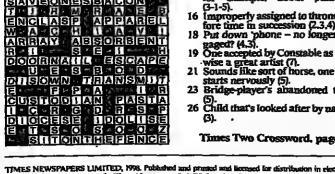
- I First issue in 1999, for example (5.6).
 7 Insect likely to be problematic in
- a year (3).

 9 Religious system uniting man and woman (9).
- 10 Love in Paris that would be non-U in Rome? (5).
- [] What interrogator says produc-
- 12 Immediate response in letter 1
- posted (7). 13 Test depth of Channel (5). 15 Diver retrieved piece for explo-
- sive device (5-4).

 17 Invalidate right to make changes
- on record (9). 19 Musician with piano in place of
- seaside entertainment (5).

 20 News that is initially brought by

Solution to Puzzle No 20,988



- 22 Every course provides this sort of bet (4,3). 24 American and I leave China, for
- Spain (5). Standard criticism attached to
- London police (9).

 27 She just makes it into the first eleven (3).

 28 Arrived early this morning, i.e. trod off street to get drunk? (5-6).

 DOWN
- 2 Thoughts of leader of assassins during fateful day? (5). 3 Tried to get editor to join paper
- (7). Not fully understood how one's lacking basic domestic facilities
- lacking basic domestic facilities (9).

 5 One who acquires a farm building (as opposed to cellar, say) (5).

 6 Again request harvest work (7).

 7 Servant with carriage that helped to get Wellington on (9).

 8 Politicians following Eden into social gathering (6.5).

 14 Advantageous position not the first part of record? (6.5).

 15 Encouragement after slipping up, for example, about platform (3-1-5).

 16 Improperly assigned to throne be-
- (3-1-5).

 16 Improperly assigned to throne before time in succession (2.3.4).

 18 Pat down 'phone no longer engaged? (4.5).

 19 One accepted by Constable as likewise a great artist (7).

 21 Sounds like sort of horse, one that the personals (5).
- (5). 26 Child that's looked after by nanny

Times Two Crossword, page 40

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□ General: cloudy. SW England, Wales and NW England will have outbreaks of rain including heavier bursts on coasts and hills. Rain in N imiting this morning will spread into W Socitand, but far northwest may see sunny spells. E Scotland drizzly. Tonight rain will spread from N Irekand, W Scotland, Edwy bursts. Fresh Se wind. Max 96 (487). Welse and SW England and E Scotland. Windy; winds approaching gale-torse in E Scotland.

□ Bordrs, E'burgh & D'des, A'deen, Morsey Frith, NE Scotland, Ortony, Shettend: cayl Storng SE wind. Max 96 (487). □ Argytl, NW Scotland: carly sun; increasingly cloudy, Rain this afternoon. Storng SE wind. Max 96 (487). □ Argytl, NW Scotland: carly sun; increasingly cloudy, Rain this afternoon. Storng SE wind. Max 96 (487). □ Argytl, NW Scotland: carly sun; increasingly cloudy, Rain this afternoon.

torce in E Scotland.

D London, SE, Cent S, E, NE England, E Anglia: mostly dull with cloud, a lists drizze, fairly mild. Mod S wind. Max (54P).

Midlands, Cent N England: cloudy, quite mild, mostly dry, occasional spells of sunshine. Mod S wind. Mex 10C (50F).

Channel Is, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, lobit: dull, cloudy; rain in morning, heaviest over hills, where it will be misty. Fresh SW wind. Mex 11C (52F).

Pearly bursts. Prest Se wint, Max 52 (407).

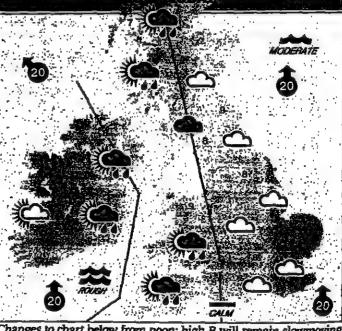
Argylii, NW Scotland: early sur; increasingly cloudy, Rain this afternoun.

Strong Se wind, Max 9C (487).

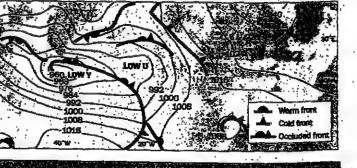
IN Irreland: early rain in north; brighter, more showeny later; more rain in SW this evening. Fresh SW wind. Max 10C (50F). ☐ Rep of Instanct windy; showery rain— sometimes heavy. Brief dry spell in after noon; wet, windy evening, Max 10C (50F) ☐ Outlook: overnight rain will clear; sunny

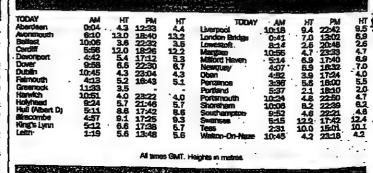
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Changes to chart below from noon: high B will remain slowmoving with little change; low U will move northeast and lose its identity: low Y will run east and fill slightly





Yesterday: highest day max: Bournemouth, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Loch Glass

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INSIDE SECTION TODAY



SPORT

Sailor working his passage in both codes **PAGES 21-27**



ARTS

George Michael cleans up with his old hits **PAGES 29-31**



MEDIA

How something for nothing sells papers **PAGES 32, 33**

TELEVISION AND **RADIO PAGES** 38, 39

Tomorrow in the AIURDA ITA

Relegation with

ecause I thought

manager. Now

Tve got. my belief back

WANAGING VERY

NICELY NOW

Bryan Robson

talks to

OLIVER HOLT

FRANK LEBOEUF

on friends' foes

and fouls

13 pages and the

inest columnists:

Alyson Rudd,

Michael Lynagh.

Lynne Truss, Robert Elms and

Simon Barnes

FRIDAY JANUARY 1 1999

Warwickshire left-armer hurriedly brought into party in place of Croft

England call on Giles for spin option

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

AT THE end of a tumultuous week, England have come up with a showstopper. Determined that they should not have the thunder of their Melbourne victory stolen by Australia conjuring up Shane Warne for the final Test in Sydney starting tomorrow, England produced their own spin

surprise yesterday, direct from wintry Warwickshire.

Ashley Giles's life story is not quite the soap opera that Warne claimed his to be. Indeed, he is so anonymous on the world stage that the press conference he conducted yesterday was halfway yesterday was halfway through before the Australian journalists present worked out

who he was. The only valid comparison between Warne and Giles is the unflattering one that both are prone to putting on weight. Yet England have decided that this journeyman slow left-armer may have an influential role in their bid to square the series by winning here for the first time. here for the first time in 20

Giles, who arrived in Australia on Tuesday as part of the one-day squad, has officially been added to the Test party, and the prospect of a quite staggering selection later staggering selection later gained tacit acknowledgement from the team management.

COTTENT MADE

While Giles practises in Syd-

ENGLAND (from): A J Stewart (ceptain), M A Atherton, M A Butcher, N Hussain, M R Framprakesh, G A Hock, J P Crawkey, W K Hegg, R D B Crait, A F Giles, D W Headley, D Gough, A D Matelly, P M Such.

AUSTRALIA (from): M A Taylor (cep-tein), M J Stater, J L Langer, M E. Waugh, S R Waugh, D S Lehmann, J A Healy, S K Warne, S C G MacGill, D W Flerning, C R Millar, G D McGrath.

Sir Donald Bradman's native village of Bowcal. Croft is crest-fallen, as well be might be. He has already had to accept the loss of his senior spin bowling role to Peter Such, but finding himself further relegated by someone who was not even chosen for the tour is the

height of indignity.
The faith in Giles, 25, is a further indictment of the quality of slow bowling in England. He has made his reputation bowling economically in oneday cricket and is not a big spinner of the ball. He was unfortunate to play his only previat Old Trafford last July, taking one for 106 against South Africa, but there was little promise of better to come.

Giles is not yet sure to play, for a number of permutations remain open. Even the possibility, though, is a remarkably frank admission that the ney today, Robert Croft will initial selection was flawed, play in a limited overs game at The only point in including

Pakistan players face mounting evidence

A JUDICIAL commission yes-terday warned Wasim Akram and Salim Malik, two former captains of Pakistan, that there was enough evidence to punish them over allegations of match-fixing, officials said. Twelve players had been summoned over the allegations but only eight responded, according to Ali Sibtain Fazli, the Pakistan Cricket

Board's legal adviser. The commission issued bailable warrants against Rashid Latif, a wicketkeeper, for his failure to turn up for cross-ex-amination, Fazli said. Rashid. who is attending to his sick

STILL smarting from the lat-

est controversial addition to his club's disciplinary roll of shame. Arsene Wenger, the Ar-

small manager, last night launched a scathing attack on the ethical degeneration of

English football and warned

Redfearn, who collapsed theat-

nie, the referee, to reconsider

inat Vieira, no stranger to trou-

father, criticised the working of the commission in a press Fazli said: "His remarks can come under contempt of court

and the judge was furious." Wasim, Malik, Ijaz Ahmed. Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar - all allegedly involved in match-fixing and betting — yesterday cross-ex-amined their accusers.

Aamir Sohail, the present Pakistan captain, Aqib Javed. the fast bowler, and Intikhab Alam, the former team manager, who had accused the players of involvement in illegal practices, were in court.

two spinners rather than just one was that both might play on a turning pitch in Sydney. Now that theory has been abandoned. Of course, Giles offers something different but the selectors knew that when they omitted both him and Philip Turnell last September. To even consider throwing in a bowler whose activity in the past three months consists of a few indoor nets in Birming-

ham" smacks of desperation. Alec Stewart, the captain, had not looked at the Test pitch by last night but suggested that England would play only four bowlers. We haven't discounted two seamers and two spinners," he said, opening up all kinds of other

bewildering possibilities. Assuming that Darren Gough will lead the attack, England would then have to exclude either Alan Mullally, who has been much their best containing bowler, or Dean Headley, whose wickets won them the game in Melbourne.

Angus Fraser is definitely deoted again but the only way in which England could field three seam bowlers, and still play their two spinners, would be through Stewart captain-ing, keeping wicket and opening the batting. Last night, he was still resisting such an option. "It's highly unlikely we would do that," he said. But in this of all weeks, no one would

After a free day at their beachside hotel, England will be practising early and trying to resolve selections they cannot afford to get wrong. High on their list of worries was the continuing poor form of Michael Atherion, who is averaging lo in the series. Stewart admined: "It's been disappointing, because we generally bat around Athers. If he bats all day, it guarantees us a good total. It's difficult to say what his problem is and he can't put his finger on it but he played very well in the summer and

can do so again." Atherem may be inspired by the ground on which he made his first overseas Test century, eight years ago, fol-lowing it with scores of 88 and 67 in the corresponding game in 1995. Right now, he needs inspiration from somewhere.



Giles, who took only one wicket in his previous Test at Old Trafford last summer, could be thrust into action tomorrow

suggestion that it might prove to be Atherton's farewell Test. "People wrote him off when he gave up the captaincy and he made a hundred in his next Test," he recalled. "He'll keep playing and he'il feature strongly against New Zealand

next summer." Nasser Hussain should return to No 3, from where he ought not to have been moved, and Mark Ramprakash, England's leading batsman in the series with an average of 58, will come in next. Graeme Hick will feel he is owed a century here, Atherton having infamously declared with him

on 98 four years ago, but it is the sixth batting position that could see another surprise.

Mark Butcher, the only Eng-lishman to make a century in the series until Stewart's 107 in Melbourne, has been marginalised both by his own ailing form and Stewart's return to the head of the order. Against the spin attack promised, John Crawley may now be reprieved from a miserable tour to win another cap at No 6.

Two days before the game begins, the pitch had more grass on it than might have been expected but also con-

ter what nationality they are, I

do not like players behaving like cheats. I want my players

to concentrate on winning and

playing the right way, not kick-

ing or diving. France are world champions and they did

not kick or dive and when Eng-

land won the World Cup, they

did not achieve it by diving."

Wenger, whose Arsenal side has collected 19 red cards in

his short tenure at the club.

including six so far this sea-

son, did not stop there. As he

talked about how Vieira was

determined to overcome the

problems that were besieging him, he called for new

measures to be introduced to

punish cheats more heavily.

patches. The Australians are so convinced it will turn that they are favouring three spin bowlers, the leg breaks of Warne and Stuart MacGill augmented by the off spin of Colin Miller, who will also

double up bowling seamers.

Sydney is a city in a state of obsessive upheaval as it prepares for the Olympics next year. Tomorrow, though, at-tention will briefly return to cricket and the ground will be a throng of expectancy. There is suddenly a series in doubt. Warne is back, and there may even be some chap called Giles playing.

Wenger, though, did not join the ongoing debate about the inconsistency of refereeing, which Alex Ferguson raised again in the wake of the fail-ure of Mike Riley to dismiss Frank Leboeuf during Chelsea's match with Manchester United on Tuesday. Instead, he expanded on a sort of

disciplinary blueprint he has formulated in his mind, an antithesis of a cheats' charrer. "Players who go down in the area without being fouled and looking for a penalty should be shown the red card immediately," Wenger said. "If it happens anywhere else on the pitch, they should be booked. It is hard for referees without

video evidence, but there is a way around that, too. One solution would be to send a copy of every Premier League game for review. Any player who was caught on video cheating could be given a red card retrospectively and suspended accordingly. It happens in France. If you show players cards for this behav-

iour, they will stop doing it. "Instead, we have a situation now where Patrick has reached the stage where he does not know what to do any

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Wenger demands action over 'divers and cheats'

that the FA Carling Premiership was in danger of taking ball that may be breathless over from Italy's Serie A as the and uncompromising but is. chosen abode for cheats. above all things, honest and Wenger's criticism was fair. Foreign players had led the way, he said, but their Engprompted by the dismissal of Patrick Vieira, his France midlish colleagues were following field player, against Charlton Athletic at The Valley on Mon-

"The problem of diving is growing in England," Wenger day. Vieira was shown the red card after he had elbowed Neil said, "and I do not like it. I always used to like watching rically to the ground clutching his face. Replays showed, how-ever, that Vieira had made con-English games because there was none of that. But now it is tact only with his chest.
Wenger, angered by the apparent refusal of Unah Rengrowing more and more prevalent. I sometimes sit at home and watch Italian football on a Sunday afternoon and I have to change over and watch the his decision even in the light of English division one game bevideo evidence, said yesterday cause in Italy the players are falling down all the time. ble since his move to High-bury from AC Milan 21/2 years Now, it is happening in the Premiership, too.

ago, was bewildered by his. treatment. Wenger is worried that what he saw as persecu-tion of Vicira might drive him away from England.

The Arsenal manager also made it plain that he saw Redfearn's actions as symptomatic of a trend in the English game

"Patrick did not deserve to be sent off, but Redicarn cheated the referee. I agree that usually Redfearn is not that type of player, but maybe he wanted Charlton to win so much, he was prepared to do anything. Patrick caught him in the chest, but he went down holding his face. It was only a By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

Patrick who was involved. "I accept that the referee may have been unsighted and that he felt that Patrick had caught Redfearn in the face, but what disappoints me more

is that he will not reconsider.

RED MIST Arsenal players sent off since Assene Wanger became manager in August 1996:

1995-97; Nov 28: S Bould (v Liver-pool). Nov 28: T Adams (v Newcastle United). Dec 21: I Wright (v Noting-ham Forest). Jen 1: J Hartson (v Noting-desbrough). Jen 11: D Berglamp (v Bundintend). May 11: Adams (v Deby County).

Ten7-95: July 30: P Vieira and M Upenn (v. PSV Einchoven). Oct 14: J Crowe (v. Birminghem City). Oct 28: E. Patti (v. Asion Vita), Jan 17: Vieira (v. Coventy City), Feb 18: Vieira (v. Chelsea). Mar 17: Bergisamp (v. West Ham United).

1998-99: Aug 29: Petit (v Charton Athetic), Sept 9: L Doon (v Chelsea). Sept - 28: Mr Keown (v Shelled Wadnesday). Nov 25: R Parlour (v Lens). Dec 20: G Odmandi (v Leeds Urited). Dec 28: Vesa (v Charton Athetic).

red card because it was If he won't look at it again. then it tells me he does not care. He just thinks he is right. "Maybe some foreign players have brought this kind of behaviour into the country but some English players are picking it up very quickly. No mat-

Wenger believes Vieira has become a target for referces

As he was speaking, news was filtering through from the North East that Paul Danson, the referee who sent off two Sunderland players in a match against Arsenal two

years ago, had been switched away from their FA Cup thirdround tie against Lincoln City tomorrow, so seeming to confirm the growing antipathy between cinbs and officials.

more. He is very down. If he had to go elsewhere to get away from this kind of thing, it would be a sad day for English football. I hope it does not

that is fast undermining its reputation as the home of foot-

John Hopkins meets the

Austrian who has been leaving her rivals trailing

The World Cup circus has been winding its way through the Alps for almost a month now and at almost every stop Austrian men and women are establishing a rare dominan

In the men's events Hermann Maier is performing as if his life depended on it. Maier, the double Olympic gold medal-winner, and his compatriots made history before Christmas by taking the first nine places in a World Cup supergiant slalom at Innsbruck. Last Tuesday, Maier and company con-firmed that was no fluke by taking eight of the top ten places in a downhill in Bormio, Italy.

Alexandra Meissnitzer, who carving her turns and gliding with ease from victory to victory, is leading the way for Austria's women and has already built up a 325-point lead over Martina Erd, of Germany, in the World Cup.

Meissnitzer has had five victories in three different disciplines and three further podium places. The 25-year-old is favourite to continue her domination by winning a super-giant slalom in Maribor.

Slovenia today. In Austria, Christmas Eve is the day when they gather to celebrate and Meissnitzer made sure she was at home with her parents and her younger brother and sister, in Abtenau, to celebrate. Her father, a mechanic, and her mother were busying themselves with lastminute chores before the family sat down to the traditional dish of

"Here, this is a big house," Meissnitzer said in her excellent English, as light snowflakes fell outside. "On the second floor I have my own living room and bedroom. I still have my parents for washing my clothes and cooking dinner. We have a good relationship. I do not hide anything from them and they treat me responsi-



Meissnitzer competes in the women's giant slalom at Semmering last Sunday. She suffered a rare defeat but extended her World Cup lead in the process

bly. It is best for me. I am three minutes by car from a chair lift." Abtenau is a village in Salzburg.

one of Austria's nine provinces, the part of the country that has taken over from St Anion as the new breeding ground for Austrian ski

Maier was born in Flachau, a village in a narrow valley not far from Abtenau, and Andreas Schifferer, winner of four World Cup downhills, comes from

Radstadt, a few miles away. Also in the Pongau region is Weinarl where the great skier Ann-Marie Moser-Proll has a cafe.

So a friendship and rivalry among local friends has contributed to Austria's success. So, too, have the techniques of Chijong, taught to Meissnitzer by Werner Tautermann, who also works with Andreas Goldberger, an Austrian

ski jumper.
"I used to get excited, nervous,

hectic," Meissnitzer said. "I would be a good skier in training and then not reproduce it in a race. Werner has taught me how to remain calm. If I am first in the first run, that is no problem. I can handle any situation. Good results have built my self-confidence."

Gliding has not been a strength of Melssnitzer's skiing but this weakness has been improved recently by the use of skis supplied by Völkl after Atomic, the Austrian

manufacturer, elected to sponsor the Germany women's team. Then there are the techniques of Karl Frehsner, the Austria women's coach, who used to train the Switzerland men's team.

Well-trained, fit and supported generously by a ski federation with an eye on the publicity for the country's tourism industry, the Austria skiers have an air of happiness and satisfaction about

training on the glacier in Zermatt." Meissnitzer said. "We have a good federation with plenty of money and good trainers. Maybe some of the other teams do not have the same money as we do. I don't know exactly why Austria is so dominant at present, but I like it. I train with Anita Wachter in the Gs, with Sabine Egger in the slaiom and Renate Götschl in the downhill and super-G. They are



ock stall icking in icking

among the best in the world. If in training you are doing the same times as these skiers, you know you're good."

Meissnitzer was three years old when she first skied and, almost from that moment, her ambition was to become a racer. "Petra Kronberger was my hero," Meiss-nitzer said. "I saw her winning all the time and I thought it was very impressive that she did it all so quickly. I watched her until she quit when I was 18. She was most impressive. She was always doing the right thing. In training, even though she was the best, she always did more work than anyone else. I am one who must work really hard. I know I have a gift from God to ski well but so have

Meissnitzer skis the downhill, giant and super giant slalom disciplines and generally wins them too, though Wachter inflicted a rare defeat on her in a giant slalom in Semmering last Sunday. Two days later Wachter suffered small tears to her right ankle in training, and is doubtful for the technical events at Maribor.

"Alexandra has lots of self-confi-dence and knows what to do," Wachter said last month. "She is clearly the favourite for the season. She is so strong in the head." Deborah Compagnoni, the Italian skier, added: " In racing, the mental side of the sport is as important as the physical side. It is difficult to remain in form at the highest level for any length of time but for now Alexandra certainly has it.

SAILING

Soldini is on course to redeem himself

By Edward Gorman SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER his dreadful performance in the first leg. Giovanni Soldini, the maverick Italian single-hander, was on course to restore lost pride with an impressive win in the second leg of the Around Alone Race yesterday. Barring the unex-pected, Soldini should bring FILA into the finish at Auckland today.

The Italian was clearly unnerved by getting his routing so badly wrong in the first leg and will be delighted to have found his form over the demanding 7,000-mile traverse of the southern Indian Ocean. Having arrived in South Africa in fifth place and nearly three days behind Mike Golding, the Briton leading the race, Soldini was last night looking able to reduce that deficit by a day.

Soldini apart, however, this leg is proving another excellent one for Golding, who can afford to lose a bit of time to his Italian rival. His main aim was to increase his leverage over Isabelle Autissier, who was 214 hours behind him into Cape Town, and Marc Thiercelin, who was ten hours behind. Yesterday Golding was 200 miles behind Soldini but 250 ahead of Autissier and Thiercelin, who are battling for third

and fourth places. With 400 miles still to sail to Auckland, the confident Golding was already planning his campaign for the third leg. "I want to get in, not so much for the break, but so we can fix the boat and carry on." he said. "It's frustrating sailing with so

many small breakages." The other outstanding per-formance of this leg has been that of J. P. Mouligne, the Frenchman who has sailed a masterful race in his Class 2 Open 50, Cray Valley, it is a slower boat in most conditions than Mike Garside's Magellan Alpha, yet, with 670 miles to go to the finish. Mouligne has a comfortable 460-mile cushion over his British rival. What is more, the Frenchman is just a few miles behind Autissier and Thiercelin and a long way ahead of Josh Hall. of Great Britain, although

congratulate Mouligne yesterday as he chased him across the Tasman Sea. "I am totally impressed," he said. "J. P. has sailed a flawless race."

each of them has more power-

ful machinery than he has.

Drugs case forces world No 13 to delay retirement in order to clear his name

Korda seeks clean break by playing on

PETR KORDA announced vesterday that he had planned to retire from tennis this Christmas, but has since changed his mind after the findings of a positive drug test have recently been made public. The Czech No l arrived

here to begin preparations for the Qatar Open, a tournament that he won in 1996 and again last year The Qatar Open is the first event in which Korda has Tennis Federation (ITF) fined

played since the International him \$94,529 (E57,000) and deducted 199 ranking points after testing positive at Wim-bledon for the banned steroid nandrolone, The 1998 Australian Open champion has now vowed to continue playing for at least another year in a bid to clear his name.

Korda, 30, decided that 1998 would be his final year on the circuit after he had won backto-back tournaments in Qatar and Australia earlier this year. "I wanted to play the season and then retire, but I couldn't retire in such circumstances." he said yesterday. "I now just want one or two more years to show people what Perr Korda is capable of on the tennis

court." Korda remains confident of his innocence and, despite a guilty verdict from the ITF, he believes that the failure to impose a ban demonstrates that they believed his defence that no substance was consciously taken. "I have never cheated and I have never taken any steroid to increase my performance on the court," Korda said. "When I first heard the news I thought it was a bad joke, and it became a very difficult time for me and my family.

"But now I am very happy with the decision of the committee, which has shown that I am innocent because I didn't knowingly take anything to raise my performance. I am 100 per cent natural and not into anabolic steroids."

Korda remains baffled as to how the traces of nandrolone showed up in the samples that he gave at Wimbledon after tennis player protesting his

innocence despite positive steroid test

Jon Green in Doha finds the Czech

against Tim Henman. "I did injure my foot that week but all the evidence that I've been able to piece together shows that everything I took was

clean," he said. "When I have an injection I always ask what is in it, but sometimes you just have to

losing his quarter-final match trust the person who administers it. if I had any knowledge about how I came into contact with the steroid then I could set out to clear my name. But now I suppose I will always have a black mark on my back for the rest of my life and never be able to clean it off. I know that not many people be-

lieve me, but I have to defend Korda. Goran Ivanisevic, who myself and continue saying that I did not take anything." The world No 13 maintains that he remains fully support-ive of the anti-doping

programme that is carried out by both the ITF and the Association of Tennis Professionals. to ensure that termis remains a relatively untainted and drug-free sport.

However, it is likely that many within the game will if no serious action is brought for a positive test." question the message sent to the rest of the tennis communithere would be ill-feeling bety by the decision not to ban

tween the other players and Korda. "Yes, it's not good for the game, but it's a matter for Petr and the ITF to sort out." Korda's long-term aim is to get a full statement released by the ITF highlighting their complete findings rather than the edited version released on December 22. However, his first objective is to forget his problems and enjoy a successful beginning to the 1999 season.

arrived here on Tuesday to compete in the \$1 million

event, said that if a player is

guilty of taking nandrolone then he should be handed a

"Last year I was tested nine

times and I can tell you, it's a

pain," he said. "The players

will cuestion tests continuing

He denied, though, that

ban, regardless of

Winning the 1998 Australian Open was a dream come true, and of course anything is possible. I haven't lost the touch and I haven't lost the feel. My goal is to enjoy the tennis and if I enjoy it then I can always get some tremen-dous results. I wanted to get to No i last year and I got very

The players that I most admired from back home were Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova, and they were playing their best tennis when they were between the age of 26 and 30. I'm still in that age

CRICKET

Tshwete renews attack on selectors

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

INSTEAD of dancing in the streets, South Africa's triumph over West Indies has provoked a political row. Sieve Tshwete. the Sports Minister, criticised the national selectors after South Africa had completed their third successive Test victory over the once-mighty touring team on Tuesday. clinching the series.

Tshwete said the selectors had not picked enough black cricketers for the fourth Test which starts at the Newlands ground in Cape Town tomorrow. The series was already in the bag - this was a good opportunity to let a chance to play." he said. Tshwete claimed that the repeated exclusion of black players from the national side was denying them the chance to improve skills and gain

experience. Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board, said that he was disappointed by Tshwete's comments. He planned to challenge the minister yester-day when the pair attended a black cricket tournament in the Eastern Cape town of Fort Beaufort. "The politicians must have confidence in us."

Bacher said. For Bacher and his fellow cricket administrators, recent criticism has come as a shock. Previously, cricket was hailed as a model sport because of its commitment to black development. Tshwete himself chaired the talks between rival black and white cricket bodies that led to the formation of the United Cricket Board in 1991.

In the past year, however, four "black" cricketers have represented the country, including Makhaya Ntini, the first black African to play Test cricket for South Africa.

India are certain to make changes for the third and final Test against New Zealand. starting tomorrow and their threat. Navjot Sidhu and Ajay Jadeja both failed in the second Test, which India lost by four wickets to go 1-0 down in the series.

Sidhu is one of three players who have not been retained for the five one-day interna-tionals that follow this Test. The other two to go home will be Robin Singh, the pace bowler, and Harbhajan Singh, the off spinner.



Korda believes he can put the controversy behind him and rediscover the form that brought him two titles last year

Prolific Button destined to reach top of tree

MOTOR RACING: BRITISH TEENAGER TIPPED TO COMPETE IN FORMULA ONE WITHIN THREE YEARS

By KEVIN EASON

IT IS a label that has tarred many a young driver on his struggle through the ranks to the golden prize of Formula One. But to many experts in motorsport, whose world is geared to finding the next great talent to rank alongside Ayrton Senna, there simply is no doubt about the quality of Jenson Button.

Anyone who has worked with him or watched his flashing talent on the track is convinced that Britain has produced the young man who will lead the next generation of Formula One drivers. Button, 18, is saddled with the onerous task of following a line of British Formula One world champions, that started with Mike Hailwood and ended with Damon

Hill in 1996. He is unlikely to have to wait long for his chance, for a test in a McLaren is now looming after Button was named this year's McLaren Autosport British Racing Drivers'

Ron Dennis, McLaren's team principal, is convinced that Button is on his way to Formula One, perhaps within three years. Dennis said: "All the ingredients are there with Jenson. It is up to him. Three years is an ambitious schedule but it is achievable. We are aware of Jenson's ability and we have spoken to him already about his future.

Button has fired his way to the top with an astonishing record of suc-cess in karting, and the Formula Ford title this year at his first at-tempt. After becoming the youngest Super A Kart Champion of Europe. Paul Lemmons. his GKS Tecno team manager. said: "In my 25 years in karting, there have been only two drivers of such outstanding ability: one was Ayrton Senna, the other Jenson Button."

Button, from a village just outside Bath, starts next year with £50,000 worth of prize-money in his sponsorship pocket to fund a campaign in Formula Three, traditionally the conveyor belt to Formula One.

His new bosses at the Renaultbacked Promatecme team were handed convincing evidence of his potential in his first test, his first drive in an Formula Three car. Withthe lap record at the French Magny-Cours grand prix circuit.
While Button was convincing in

France. Justin Wilson was stunning in Italy on his first outing in a Formula 3000 car. Wilson has found the progression tougher than Button, re-lying on his father, Keith, a garage-owner, to finance his career through karts and Formula Vauxhall, where he was with Paul Stewart Racing. The struggle is relative though: Wilson is still only 20 and this year

achieved his breakthrough by win-ning the inaugural Formula Palmer Audi championship, his prize for victory being a season in Formula 3000. "It is very difficult because there is so much competition at every level and from so many countries now," Wil-



son, from Sheffield, said. "Finding the money is always difficult and, if it hadn't been for Palmer Audi, would not have made it into F3000. It is my chance to impress."

Neither Peter Dumbreck nor Jonny Kane could find the money to

keep them in Britain. In Dumbreck's case, a move to Japan has brought the success and exposure he yearned for. The Scot, 25, won the Japan Formlua Three championship and topped off his season with victory in the prestigious Macau Grand Prix. Executives at Mercedes were quickly on the telephone for his services. Kane, 25, from Northern Ireland.

is off to America after running out of money and hope at home. The former British Formula Three champion has secured a seat in the US PPG Dayton Indy Lights series with Team Kool Green, which runs Dario Franchitti, of Scotland, in the rival CART championship.

Clock starts ticking in race to 2006 World Cup

WHEN Big Ben chimed midnight, the deadline for bids to stage the 2006. World Cup closed with the expected seven candidates officially declared. "From here on," Danny Jordaan, the former footballer and human rights leader who heads South Africa's application, said, "every candidate shares one fear,

the fear of losing."

Jordaan has six months, but certainly not until March 2000 when the 24-man executive committee of Fifa, world football's governing body, vote on the issue, to make maximum use of the Mandela appeal. They are united, the footballman and the President, who used sport to create the rainbow image of South Africa liberated from apartheid, in believing that Africa has a compelling case; but in 1999

THE CONTENDERS?

Mandela hands over the presidency and the emotional value of his presence will begin to ebb away. That will, to some extent, level

the playing field for England and other contenders. It should come down to a basic calculation of the quality of each country's infrastructure and ability to organise a 64-match tournament — a quality that England has in depth. However, those who know Fifa politics must still be aware that South Africa has influence where it counts, inside the committee, and that Germany has the strength of insiders in most meaningful foot-ball structures, strength that England has failed to maintain.

CRISIT

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was unlikely to give priority to Cup during a general-election year fought against widespread postwar unemployment, the new government has since announced im-

mense communent to stadiums in Berlin and Leipzig. Moreover, the Pifa voters will feel the warmth of Deutsche Fussball-Bund (DfB) hospitality early in the year that matters, for January 2000 is the cente-nary of German football, and March 2000 is the month that the executive members decide, There will be a huge show in Leipzig, the birthplace of the DfB. Meanwhile. Germany prefers to ring out the old year in a practical manner, making December 31 the date on which its 20 aspirant World Cup cities give evidence of progress in preparing stadiums to meet Fifa demands. Franz Beckenbauer, seldom reluciant to remind Fifa members

that Germany stuck to the gentleman's agreement that England broke — namely that the DfB supported Euro 96 in England, in return for which Sir Bert Millichip. the then Football Association chairman, pledged support for Germany 2006 — has questioned South Africa's scope to put on a safe, competent World Cup. But Becken-

bauer hears, as other insiders do, that Brazil has powerful backing. The Brazilian bid is there in writ-ing, despite the fact that Riccardo Teixeira, its football president, som-in-law of João Havelange, the recently-retired Fifa president, neglected to inform the government in Brasilia that the intention was for real. The dilapidated stadiums in Brazil, and the need for a \$41 billion (£24.7 billion) International Monetary Fund loan to the country, suggest that, somer rather than later, those planning such a costly venture will seek govern-Heavy politics, however, can rebound. England hopes that,

come voting day, Graham Kelly, Keith Wiseman and the FA Alec McGivan, thrector of Eng. millions will be forgotten, but some land's 2006 campaign, finished lifts recurrent have long 1998 as he began it stracking Ger. Inchories. "England assumes many's comparative lacking government support is its trump ment support. There is a misconception card, "one member scoffed. "Well, tion here; the German government we haven't forgotten Tony Blair blessed the bid in 1993 and, while it and Jack Curningham accusing us of a cosy stitch up to hijack support spending towards a future World for Germany. Maybe they were misled by the FA denials over the gentleman's agreement, or maybe they were just trying to win a different election.



Johnson appears shy but put him on the pitch and the aggressive, confident Antipodean emerges. Photograph: Richard Pohle

Johnson lets feet do the talking

ichard Johnson, the Wat-ford midfield player, is not an archetypal Ausiralian. "G'day, mate" and "No worries" do not feature in his vocabulary and he doesn't mention, let alone gloat over, the pre-Melbourne humiliation of the Eng-

land cricket team. He might have a mother called Shelagh but he appears quiet, almost shy — the antithesis of the loud, tinnie-guzzling Antipodean of dublous descent so loved by whingeing Poms the world over.

Johnson, 24. speaks softly, his voice magnified only by the echo in dressing room No 1 at the club's training ground in Stanmore, Middlesex. He is courteous, attentive and admits only one concession to brashness — the black BMW Z3 Roadster parked outside. It has caused him grief from envious team-mates but the jealous fibes have long since subsided.

I got my first decent contract in March so I went out and treated myself," he said. "I've waited a long time for a nice car. It goes well and although I got a lot of stick-from the lads who thought I was bit flash, it didn't really bother me. it's a great car." Appearances are often deceptive.

and the real Aussie emerges — the confident, aggressive competitor who played rugby league at school with Andrew and Matthew Johns, the Australia Internationals. He received his fifth booking of the Russell Kempson meets the Watford player trying to shoot down Tottenham

season in the 1-1 draw against Norwich City on Tuesday and will shortly take a one-match break at Football Association's

Yet woe betide any defenders who stand off, allowing him the merest sight of goal from any range or angle. One of his four goals this season was described as "a 35-yard right-footed screamer"; another as "a thundering drive from 20 yards". Another was 'hammered home from 20 yards". Johnson laughs, per-plexed and almost

embarrassed at his hallistic expertise. Tve had a few of those," he said. used to score a lot of goals from distance in Australia. Left foot, right

foot, but usually the right. I don't really know why but I seem to have the knack." Scoring with a two-yard tap-in is a recurring dream, rarely fulfilled.

Tottenham Hotspur will testify debut, in a pre-season friendly at Vicarage Road in 1994, Johnson scored with a 35-yard special in the 14 draw. Those at White Hart Hunter Valley. Sport dominated Lane who recall its velocity will be wise to advise George Graham, the

Tottenham manager, before Wat-ford travel to North London in the FA Cup third round tomorrow.

It is a trip that will revive many arrived in England as a wide-eyed teenager eight years ago. He spent three months on trial with Totten-ham but was deemed surplus to requirements. "I thought I'd done really well but they told me I wasn't any better than what they had there already," he said. "As it's turned out, I was probably better

off leaving. Football is in the Johnson blood. His father, Roy, and mother lived in Preston before emigrating in 1968. Johnson Sr was an apprentice with Preston North End until he moved Down Under after

answering an advertisement for players to help form a new league. He started with Sydney Croatia but settled in northern New South Wales on the country's east coast. Kurri, a town amid the coalfields around Newcastle, in which his father worked, and the vineyards of

his curriculum at St Peter's Boys'

School: he played in the state un-

der-21 league when he was 15 but his education suffered. "I was useless," he said. "It was not for me.

"I wasn't doing any good at school. Dad sat me down one day and said: 'If you want to make any-thing of yourself in football, Eng-land is the best place to be.' So I just packed my bags and got on the plane. If I'd really thought about what I was doing, I'd probably bave had second thoughts. I'm glad i didn't."

A dual national, with English and Australian passports, Johnson will become further anglicised when he marries Vanessa Martin - "a lovely Essex girl from Southend" - in June 2000. Yet he is still miffed that he played no part in Australia's World Cup qualifying campaign, ultimately fruitless though it was.

He was watched by scouts of Terry Venables, the then Australia coach, but the call never arrived. This was possibly a consequence of the apparent antipathy between Venables and Graham Taylor, the Watford and former England manager. "I don't know if that had any-thing to do with it," he said. "I hope not. It was disappointing because I'd been playing really well."

Johnson has not given up hope even if Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, were to call first, he would consider the offer. It might not please the boys back in Kurri Kurri but Hoddle would receive a warm response. No worries.

Old Firm remain Nevin's title spur

By PHIL GORDON

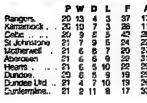
WHEN Pat Nevin left Kilmarnock for Motherwell three months ago. there were plenty of people prepared to tell him he was taking a step down. The upwardly-mobile Motherwell player-chief executive might use this afternoon to argue that both clubs are going in the

same direction.

Nevin was drawn to Fir Park by his ambitions for the club, as much as his personal one. Yet, the man dubbed the game's first punk foothaller is enough of a romantic to hope that his former and present teams are laying foundations for a genuine challenge to the Old Firm. It is appropriate that the first foot-ball of 1999 should be at Fir Park between these clubs, because both symbolise the brave new era that is

mier League (SPL). Both are benefit-ing from the £44 million of Sky Tele-PREMIER LEAGUE

being nourished by the Scottish Pre-



vision money that is dripping down through the SPL to smaller clubs to help them catch up on Celtic and Rangers, and both have contributed to the 11 per cent increase in attendances reported by the SPL

Kilmarnock, in second place, may possess the points that Motherwell crave, but Nevin believes that Motherwell's people power will soon be a source of envy. "We're attracting thousands of fans back to Fir Park through the

price reduction policy implemented by our chairman, John Boyle, he said. "The most heartening aspect of that has been the kids who are coming. If we can catch them at a young age and get them to support us, rather than Celtic or Rangers. then this club has a chance of growing. Kilmarnock copied our move and got 14,000 people two weeks

Motherwell underlined their ambition by yesterday signing Lee Me-Culloch on a new three-year contract. The Scotland Under-21 forward scored the equaliser at Aberdeen on Tuesday night that helped Motherwell into fifth place.

essential. Closing the gap on Rangers to three points just 48 hours be-fore the Old Firm do battle would send out a signal that they do not intend to give Dick Advocaar's team an easy passage.

Beardsley comes home to Hartlepool

BY GEORGE CAULKIN _

WHEN Peter Beardsley embarked on his career as a professional footballer two dec-ades ago, the Berlin Wall was intact, Margaret Thatcher, held the keys to 10 Downing Street and the Soviet Union had not yet been consigned to the history books. By signing for his tenth club yesterday. the former England international could reasonably claim... to have aged better than most. The same cannot be said of

his latest port of call, however. When Beardsley scored a hattrick on his debut for Carlisle United's reserve team in Au-gust 1979, Hartlepool United were preparing for another season of mediocrity in the old fourth division and, while the name may have altered, they remain there still. Beardsley's signing — initially until the end of the season - represents a timely coup. After an unhap-py spell with Bolton Wanderers and a brief reunion with:

TRANSFER TRAIL

frie benefit
Sept 1985: Joins Newcastle for £150,000
July 1987: Joins Liverpool for £1.9m
Aug 1987: Joins Everion for £1.9m
June 1993: Rejoins Newcastle for £1.4m
June 1993: Rejoins Newcastle for £1.4m
June 1998: Joins Botton for £450,000
Feb 1998: Joins Botton for £450,000
Feb 1998: Joins Marchaster City of loer,
March 1988: Joins Futhern on Jonn

Kevin Keegan at Pulham, it. also returns the forward to his native North East, a significant lure given that his family have remained in the region. since his second transfer from Newcastle United for £450,000 last year, "It's great

to be back," he said yesterday. With Hardepool down to twenty-first in the table after five consecutive defeats, Beard-: sley's arrival immediately prompted fevered speculation

as to the long-term future of Mick Tait, the club's present manager. A section of supporters have called for Tait's head in recent weeks, although circumstances conspire to suggest that Beardsley will not be his eventual successor. The pair became friends while playing together at Cartisle

and though Beardsley had a chance to return to Brunton Park — he had a series of discassions with Michael Knighton, the Carlisle chairman, three weeks ago and was widely expected to become Nigel Pearson's first signing - it was that personal bond which proved the stronger.
"I was lucky enough to play with the boss at Carlisle and

he really looked after me then. This is a way to try to help repay him," Beardsley said. Hav-ing made little secret of his desire to enter management he also attempted to deflect the inevitable gossip regarding his position. "As long as Mick is here, I'll be here as a player."



Beardsley: love of football

While nothing formal is enshrined in his contract, there will also be a brief to encourage Hartlepool's fledgeling players, perhaps in the hope that some of Beardsley's magic will rub off. The club has put a lot of time and money into developing the youth side and I am looking forward to working with the young players, not only in the first team but also in the reserves and youth team," he said.

Some will suggest that scrab-bling about at the foot of the League is an undignified rest-ing place for a man who has won 59 international caps, captained his country and won a host of trophies with Liverpool, as well as finding time to play for Everton, Newcastle, Manchester United and Manchester City via Vancouver Whitecaps and Wallsend Boys' Club. Why humiliate himself, they will ask?

The answer will be provided

by a packed St James' Park later this month when Newcastle entertain Celtic for Beardsley's testimonial game and by the few hundred extra souls present for the visit of Cambridge United to Victoria Park tomorrow. All would mention qualities such as exuberance. enthusiasm and a love of football. This, after all, is man who still talks of "doing bet-ter", as a player. "I've got a few years to go yet." Beardsley, who celebrates his 38th birthday later this month, said,

Altrincham's management team preaching caution

IN THE best traditions of caunous-minded football folk, Bernard Taylor and Graham Heathcote are approaching the new year without making any extravagant predictions for Altrincham. The temptation must have been strong because their side has swept to the top of the UniBond League with 12 victories and two draws in their past 15 matches.

"We've still got the hard part to come." Taylor, the manager, said. There is still half the season to go. We've got to the top of the table, now we've got to stay there. Any of the teams in the top five could win the league. They are all good enough. Guiseley, who we play tomorrow, have games in hand in fifth place.

It's a very important match." Yet the 3-0 win at Runcorn on Boxing Day and the 4-1 win at Moss Lane over Marine watched by a hearteningly large crowd of 1,001 - spoke NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL By Walter Gammie

volumes for the confidence of the team. Phil Power, fully fit and firing, scored in both matches and Leroy Chambers scored his eleventh league goal at Runcorn.

Most remarkably, Stuart Coburn, the goalkeeper, scored with a wind-assisted kick down the hill at Canal Street. The ball bounced once and over a helpless Mark Morris in the Runcorn goal. Coburn also saved a penalty. and his form has played a Altrincham revival.

Coburn's presence saw Andy Dibble depart on loan to Barry Town, the League of Wales champions, where he fell victim to an extraordinary injury - suffering severe burns, apparently from lime on the penalty spot, at Carmarthen Town, "We visit-

ed him in hospital," Taylor said. "He's in good spirits, but he's had a skin graft to his chest, and it may be a long time before he plays again."
Dibble's misfortune aside,

things appear much brighter for a club that gleaned only four points from its first eight matches. With a ground equipped for the Football League, Altrincham had not hidden their ambition of regaining the Football Conference place lost two seasons ago - but the time spent by Nigel Gleghorn and Brian Kilcline as player-coaches failed to have the desired effect.

The upturn in Altrincham's fortunes coincided with Heathcore taking over the coaching has been involved since 1970. The spirit in the dressingroom is as good as I have known," he said. "It helps when you're winning — but the job is only half done."

ICE HOCKEY

Devils are stung by busier Bees

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

CARDIFF. DEVILS once again missed out on an oppor- four minutes when he showed tunity yesterday to maintain sufficient determination to their challenge for the Sekon pick up his own rebound and da Superleague, beaten 4-0 by Bracknell Bees in their second successive home defeat.

Two goals apiece from Schulte did the job for Bracknell and Richard Gallace, on loan from Slough Jets because of injury to Bracknell's two regular goaltenders, did much to deny Cardiff.

Bracknell were faster, stronger, more determined and better at all the basic skills than the Devils, who gave what must have been of their worst

Brant's first goal came after pick up his own rebound and lift it over Derek. Herlofsky. Less than four minutes later Schulte completed a neat three way play with Jeff John-stone and Dale Junkin to make it 20. The only goal of the second

period came when Bracknell were on power play and Brant's shot from the blue line was deflected by Schulte. The Cardiff power play

once again showed its ineptiuide and failed to score on any of their six-man advanrage opportunities. The near est they came was when Doug



McCosh, of Bracknell Bees, finds himself rendered airborne by the loose stick of Menard, of Cardiff Devils. But it was the Devils who ultimately landed with a bump

wide of an open net.

McEwen missed an open net third period saw Brant com- jected to a slashing penalty, up into fourth place.

when the Devils were on their plete the scoring for the which was more than justifiest power play in the first evening and the only disaptified, by throwing his stick at period and, early in the third.

The pointing aspect from Bracket the referee, for which he rewhen Steve Thornton shot nell's point of view came with ceived a misconduct penalty less than five minutes remain- 'and took no further part in A breakaway early in the ing when Norm Bezainde ob proceedings. Bracknell move

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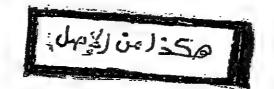
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RUGBY UNION

Shake-out vital for game's financial health

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

A CERTAIN grim reality is already beginning to inform rugby union. From the first day of professionalism it was a player's market but, come this season's end, players should be in no doubt that employers will begin to pick and choose. The process has already begun at Sale where, yesterday, John Devereux was placed on the transfer list.

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Devereux, the former Wales and British Isles centre who. joined Sale after ending his rugby league career at Widnes in 1996, is on the list for different reasons to Tom Beim, his club colleague. Beim seeks a move for personal reasons; Devereux, 32, who has started only 21 games, has been afflicted by a succession of injuries and John Mitchell, the director of rugby, said: "We can't carry non-productive or non-

performing players. A harsh wind of change is what rugby needs. There are too many players earning too much money for skills that are too limited; there are too many. clubs living beyond their means and it should not take.

from outside — if, indeed, that is legally possible — to force wages down to an affordable

on realistic salaries, and that

Northampton's pruning knife has already been out.

Last summer McGeechan

trimmed 19 players in the inter-

ests of economy. "We want to evolve now from within," he

said. "although there may be

the one-off introduction of a

player for a specific purpose."

and London Irish; so busy in

the marketplace earlier this

go shopping again. At Sale, however, Mitchell knows he

must improve his pack and will balance his books by dis-

carding some assets so that he

"I have been assured the money will be available for the

right people," Mitchell said, "I do feel a responsibility to

produce good, England-quali-

keep up with the Joneses,

sometimes you have to shelve

that concept. This is no longer

an English league, it's a cosmo-

Mitchell could be looking north of the Border where

uncertainty continues to surround the future of the two

Super clubs in Edinburgh and Giasgow. Nick Oswald, chief executive of Edinburgh Reivers, acknowledged that

several of his players (some of

whose contracts expire in

June) have been approached

by clubs outside Scotland.

The review body looking

into Scottish rugby is not likely to have any findings

until May and if they say that clubs are the way forward in

Europe, then I don't think

there would be enough time

for them to prepare for a high-

er level of rugby," Oswald said. "We need a decision

fairly soon to start planning

for next year and the players

need to know what the future

The future, for Dean Ryan,

could be in the West Country

castle No 8 with Bristol. Ryan,

so integral a part of Newcas-

tle's Allied Dunbar Premier-

ship-winning side last season,

is unlikely to play again this

season because of a neck

injury and, at 32, is planning

career in coaching. Bristol

have lost David Egerton, their

forwards coach, to work and

family commitments and have

acknowledged negotiations

with Newcastle.

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can afford others.

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Such clubs as Northampton

will be good."

Those who set the crazy money-roundabout twirling are realising now that the game has a value better-balanced than it was 18 months ago, Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said. "There is greater realism. Professional squads will probably get smaller. Top players will still earn good money



, Shepherd suffers World Cup blow

prospects of representing Scotland in this year's World Cup were dealt a blow yesterday when a knee injury he sustained in a practice match earlier this week was diagnosed as a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament. Initial estimates suggested he would

be out of rugby for at least eight months. The injury occurred, when superingly short of internation—
Shepherd was fackled after at policy practice having collecting a high ball during, missed the Pive Nations Glasgow Caledonians match. Claumpionship and the against a Scottish Districts water up tour to South Africa. Under 21 team on Monday.

This is devastating for him After receiving on field treatment, he continued playing but subsequent investigations have revealed the full extent

of the damage. Shepherd, who has made 20 international appearances for Scotland at centre and full. back, was dropped by Scotland before their last infernational against South Africa in-November, but was still

SHEPHERD'S considered a core member of the squad. While guilty of inconsistency in the past, the 28-year-old has nevertheless been a reliable goalkicker, amassing more than 100-

points for his country.

The could be fit again in time for the World Cup in October, but the selectors might be reluctant to call on a player who would by then be

and a big blow for us," Keith Robertson, the Glasgow Cale-domans coach, said. The heartening news for Robertson yesterday was that Stewart Campbell, the Scotland

lock, has been passed fit. GLASGOW CALEDOMANN: T Heyes; D. Sten, I viseding, J. Lesler, S. Longstall, L. Smith, F. Stelt; G. McLiwham, G. Bulloch, W. Anderson, S. Grinnes, S. Carripbell, G. Flockter, J. Shew, M. Webs. Replacements D. Patterson, d. Craig, C. Strombes, K. McKepzle, A. Kittle, G. Stropson, J. Petrie.

Versatile Sailor warms to task

Christopher Irvine meets one of the hottest properties that either code of rugby can boast

er report from home was the last thing that Wendell Sailor wanted to hear. Jamie Mathiou, just back from Brisbane, was complaining about the heat there "How are you going mate?" he asked of his Australian compatriot. Sailor could have happily strangled Mathiou. but, instead, breathed into both hands and stamped his feet. "Jeez, it's cold," he said. Mention Rotherham to the Brisbane Broncos and Australia rugby league wing and all 6ft 3in and lost of him quiver. With sleet driving into his face, fingertips numb and the crowd on his back, a 3/-month winter sojourn in the alien environment of the second division of English rugby union felt more like purgatory than the fun idea when he rolled up at

Headingley in October. That was the first time I'd played in really cold weather," Sailor, 24, said. "Mentally, I didn't want to play, which I'd pever experienced before. I remember making just three tackles all game. Then I tried to kick. Someone shouted, 'That's bloody ordi-nary, Sailor', and it was."

As well as keeping an eye on the weather, the next few days will put more pressure on Sailor to perform at his best in both codes. Today, he will be playing rugby league for Leeds Rhinos against Castleford Tigers in a Tet-ley's Challenge match. Two days later, it is a case of "if it's Sunday it must be rugby union" and a testing trip to Coventry with Leeds Tykes in the

Allied Dunbar Premiership. So why has a player with glamour appeal and the trappings of success in Australia risked his reputation in such an experiment? .. "Union was always a chai-

lenge for me, an itch to scratch," he explained. "I was confident enough to say I could play it. Then I had to go and do it. The second division here has been a great introduction. Next year I'd love to do have a go in the first division. What I didn't appreciate about union is that you don't just pick it up. It's far more technical. You need a greater awareness of where your other players are. Recycling the ball is the biggest single difference.



Wasps have been linked with a similar short-term deal for Sailor next season. His agent will be sounding out several clubs this month. although broadening his horizons to union has taught him one thing, that as much as he is enjoying wrestling with the demands of another sport, it is league where his

permanent future resides. His geniality gave way to serious contemplation for a moment. "I'm a league man through and through," he said. "I set myself a goal of 20 Tests for Australia. I'm nearly halfway there. We've got the new tri-nations in 1999 and the 2000 World Cup. Those are massively important to me. Afterwards, England could be a longerterm possibility."

Wigan Warriors were prepared to make him the richest player in the game in a deal starting this year. He initially leapt at the chance, without appreciating a two-year option on him, that Brisbane enforced. Wigan claimed they had a binding agreement with Sailor, who dmitted he was bowled over by a £500,000 offer and briefly lost sight of his loyalty to Brisbane, who gave him

his opportunity when no other club was interested. It was during the 1994 Australia tour that British spectators first got glimpses of a powerful young tyro with wings for boots. Halifax made him an immediate offer and he was close to signing for London Broncos three years ago when Brisbane again stepped in. In another two years, he will be free to explore his desire for a spell in the British game. Leeds, where he is at home with the set-up and surroundings, will be an obvious choice for him when the time comes.

circumventing the block by the Rugby Pootball Union on mit by playing him as an amateur, the Tykes were docked four points. It was a price worth paying. With Sail-or on board, Leeds have not lost in the league and their average crowds of 700 have trebled. He has scored ten tries, five of them in one game against Rugby.

As good as it was to be paid

not scoring and giving away a try on his return to league against Halifax Blue Sox on Boxing Day is more of an incentive for the match against Castleford today. "I was trying so hard against Halifax that I was

thinking of a gap opening up and a spectacular 80-metre try when I tried to trap the ball, missed it and they scored," he said. "When people hear that you're the best this and best that, of course they want something special. If they don't see it. they inevitably question whether you are that good." For Sailor, his venture,

which ends in four weeks, is all about questioning himself. The answers have been occasionally memorable, despite the weather.

It is time to keep to the rule of law s the year turns and the new millennium beckons. 1999 ought to prove the time when rugby union

has lapsed somewhat of late.

and its various strata of governing authorities will inspire faith and devotion once more from their are, the conclusion must be that the Scots are a discerning crowd: they long-suffering supporters, among know what they want to see and will not desert their hearth simply whom, it may be said, complacency indeed indifference — may be setting in. These characteristics of for the sake of any old game loyalty are being lost and there should be no doubt about the especially if the team they support

gravity of this. If there is unrest about the cominuing lack of harmony within the There are dark signs but this loyalty can no longer be counted upon. If club rugby in Wales leaves much to be desired, there is at least-loyalty shown when the national administration of rugby there is growing dissatisfaction, too about the manner in which the game is played on the field and the team plays. But what is happening uncertainty about whose laws to obey. The laws are a perennial problem that is unlikely to go away in Scotland should be a matter of deep regret. To witness Scotland play in front of a considerably less than full Murrayfield for internaunless there are dramatic changes. In which case if they are, the character of rugby union would cease. Al-ready there is an undercurrent of tional matches recently was a deeply melancholy sight. There may be surreptitious and subtle change. many reasons for this wholesale We begin with the old chestnut of putting the ball into the scrum. absence. Whatever they may be, and however diverse the reasons

Referees have the authority to stem the tide of growing dissatisfaction within the game, Gerald Davies argues

Quite how referees can keep a straight face as they blatantly ignore the law as it is written, and allow the scrum half to put the ball in crooked and under his own hooker's feet, remains a mystery. And how they can then spare them-selves a giggle when occasionally, curiously and obscurely, they reverse this trend, arbitrarily it seems, to abide by the law and penalise a team for transgressing it. How do they come by their

decisions? And how is it that the very stern referee's assessor, appointed by his union to observe and make copious notes of these contradictions, can

judge the quality of this kind of refereeing? What advice does he give? What recommendations does he make? And what, frankly, is the spectator meant to make of all this? How serious is this contest? How honest is rugby as a professional

Sport? If the scrum is no longer a contest then the lineout is also fast following a similar pattern. Increasingly, referees are falling into the habit of giving a more lenient interpretation so as to allow the ball to be thrown in crooked and in favour of one team. This is predictable and changes the essence of what is meant to be a competitive challenge. Thus, it takes away the ele-ment of surprise from the contest and of the opposition's tactical response. It also contravenes the law.

But the hooker is allowed - also contrary to the law - to take a step infield to throw the ball into the lineout. It may of itself be a small point but indicative nonetheless of the trend to "loosen" the game. To award penalty tries is well within the referee's prerogative, of

course. But it should be as a last resort for a serious breach of the laws. At no stage since the law was introduced has the referee exercised this prerogative with such ease and alacrity as he does nowadays. This effectively means it is within the official's gift to award seven points, more than the worth of two penalty goals, for a transgression which, in the case of a collapsed scrum, say, may be caused innocently by unsteady footing. Or. indeed, that the true culprit is not properly identified and escapes

All this is for the purpose of moving the game along in an attempt to make rugby more accessible. The game has appealed almost wholly to those who have played it at some stage or another or grew acquaint-ed with its esoteric niceties at school. Rugby is hard-pressed to find a new audience.
The faithful crowd may perceive

a game that is changing rapidly from the one which they grew up to understand and to cherish. And

who is to say that they may not be quite so enamoured of a game whose standards, which they were expected to uphold, are now being compromised and whose principles are gradually being eroded. By cynically abusing long-held values, rugby may be in danger of losing its hardcore followers. In chasing wider popularity, rugby would seem to be willing to sacrifice its

integrity.

Something new is being created. no doubt, but the old enthusiasms and certainties are no longer around and, to be truthful, no one any longer can feel sure who the guardians of the game really are: nor confident of the kind of game

they are attempting to create. To ignore the laws as they are written, to give referees more latitude, and for the crowd complacently to accept decisions and behaviour that they only half understand changes rugby's perspective. There is, indeed, something superficial sometimes about rugby providing a true contest.

SPORT IN BRIEF Mitsubishi

make solid start MOTOR RALLYING: Mitsubishi, winners of the

past two Dakar Rallies,

confirmed that they were favourites to make it three in a row when Kenjiro . Shinozuka, of Japan, won the race prologue yesterday. Shinozuka triumphed in 5min llsec from Jean-Louis Schlesser, of France, in a

Schlesser-Renault Mégane. FOOTBALL: John Collins the Everton midfield player, is to have an operation on a toe injury next week that may rule him out of action for two months. But he could still play a part in the FA Cup tie with Bristol City

tomorrow.

Squash: Sue Wright, Cassie Jackman and Suzanne Homer, of England, are third, fourth and fifth in the ne' world rankings...

Reading limber up for European tests

HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin

tune up for their entry into Europe next month at the twoday DTZ Midlands indoor international tournament this weekend. This popular event has un-

fortunately lost much of its in-ternational flavour by the withdrawal of the entire Scottish contingent, Murray International Metals, the holders, Capercaillies (the Scotland national side) and Menzieshill, from Dundee. The dates allocated to the tournament were apparently too close to the new year. Some of England's indoor stalwarts. Old Loughtonians, East Grinstead and Doncaster, also declined for the same reason. . However, Reading will still

READING have a chance to in 1995, and other previous winners, Stourport, Harborne and Barford Tigers. Leek, another Midlands club, stepped in at short notice after Menzieshill had withdrawn. Under the guidance of Imran Sherwant, they won their pool in the Midlands club championship last month and hope to make further progress when the event is resumed.

Reading's commitment in Burope is in the B division of the indoor club championship in Prague from February 19 to 21. Their team for this weekend includes Ken Robinson, of New Zealand, who joined recently, and other familiar Eaces from the outdoor squad.
DRAW: Pool & Berbyl Tigers, Offon and
West Warnedouthe, Fredrands, Brooklands, Pool & Warne, Harborne, Bestion,
Notifice Hall, Fool C. Combined Services,
Shouport, Liek, Swanses, Pool D: Dunion
Engineering, Hull, Reading, Kindermaster. face strong opposition from Vikings of Denmark, winners

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL UNS-BALL, TROPHY: Group A: Lecester Riders 93 Derby Storm 90 (OT). BOWLS

BLACKPOOL: Boddingtons Newton Hall International Classic: Guertaninals: K Haves (Eng) bt C. Johnson (Blackpool) 2:1-4; D Hunt (Eng) bt D Ward (Blackpool) 2:1-4; D Hunt (Eng) bt D Ward (Blackpool) 2:1-2: B Rawcille (Blackpool) 1:1-5 Real-Blackpool 1:1-15 Real-Black DARTS

PURPLEET: Sled world championable: Second round (England unless stated): S Burgess tit R Harrington 3-1, Ferrell bit G Mawson (Em) 3-2; B Andrason bit J Harvey (Scot) 3-2; P Taylor bit J Lowe 3-1

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee United 1 Rangers 2; Heart of Midlothan 1 Dundee 2.

SRIERHOFF IRSEN LEAGUE: Premier divi-ation: Ballymene 1 Crusaders 2: Potadown 1 Coletane 2: First division; Ards 1 Lame 9: Ballyclain 0 Datalory 1, Carack 2 Limevarity 3.
FAI HARP CUP: Final, second leg: Cork 1
Shemock Roves 0 (Cork ven 2-1 en ogg).
PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP: Group oue:
Hantepool 0 Middlesbroogh 4

ICE HOCKEY SEKONDA SIDERI ENGIE: Navyhette

MATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Bufaic 2 Onama 3 (OT) Cardina 4 Tampa Bay 3 Washington 2 New Jersey 3, Prisburgh 7 Planda 4, Toonito 4 Anahem 1; Rashoke 2 Boston 5; Phoenic 3 New York Rangors 1 Los Angeles 5 San Jose 1

GRANADA, Spaine Dater Ratigoral Prologue ZULM and Som Lindo section, Carrie 1, K Shinozaka (Japan Mississis) at 4 see, 3, JP Fortiesser (Japan Mississis) at 4 see, 3, JP Fortiesser (Japan Mississis) 5, 5 JM Servas (Bo, Schlesser) 6, 6, H Massiska (Japan, Mississish) 16, 7, J Klemschmatz (Ger, Mississish) 18, 7, J Klemschmatz (Ger, Mississish) 18 Metarchillerer 1, D von Zhamatz (Ger, KTM) 4 mn 34sec, 2, J Roma (Sp. KTM) at 7 sec; 3, J Fink Justina, KTM, 13, 4, G Sale (M. KTM) 19, 5, F Fasta (S. KTM) 20, 6, F Fisck (Fr, Honda) 22, 7, O 36-lando (Sp. BMW) 23

2 B-molebella (Aus.) 2.22-55. 3, Ausmeld (Aus.) 3.07-10; 4. Ragamufin (Aus.) 3.07-11, 5. Notica (Dook Islandia) 3.10-19, 6. Fudge (Aus.) 3.12-00. 7, Ouest (Aus.) 3.15-41, 8. Inclusinal Cuest (Aus.) 3.15-58. 9, Aspect Computeng (Aus.) 3.16-28. 10. AFR Motingin Plambler (Aus.) 3.16-28. 10. AFR Motingin Plambler (Aus.) 3.17-04. CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 2d (Getepagos to Hawaix with miles to brash). 1. Senze (R. Dean) 3.757. 2. Thermospiae (M. Tod) 3.766. 3. Mermerus (B. Schers) 3.765. 4. Tasping (N. Flaming) 3.763. 5. Chrysolite (T. Hedigos) 3.800. eq.2; 6. Antiope (K. Hams) and Ariel (A. Ahorisco) 3.866. Overalli positions (Aler leg 2c): 1. Anel 6.5ptc; 2. Mermerus 17, 3. Antiope 18.4. Chrysolite 18.5. 5. Thermospiae 18.5. 6. Tasping 20.5. 7. Senza 25.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 30 unless stated

Motherwell v Kilmarnock Michenwell v Klimannock.

DR HARTTENS LEAGUE: Premier devision: Atherstone v Bromsgrave Boston v Cambridge City. Crawley v Hesting: Atherstone Harton Grosley v Burton Albina, Halestowen v Nameston, Morthyr v Bath Cay, Rothwell v Grantform Sassbury v Botto Cay, Rothwell v Grantform Sassbury v Botto Cay, Rothwell v Grantform Sassbury v Rothor, Worcester Cry v Tamwort. Sorthern division: Bedock v Fishor, Bostley v Andows, Chelmsford v Rands T; Cody v Connected Town Darbord v Margate, Fleet T v Newport IoW, Falkestone Invoice v Touthordge Angels, Stitingboome v Ashlord, St Landwick v Enth and Belveder. Wang v Bradley Town, Yate v Havant and Waterboyde Bildierd divisions Bodworth v Statlor; Bildierd divisions Bodworth V Ballor; Handley Und, Clevedon v Reddenh, Moor Green v Stekenal, Newport AFC v Eve-stern Page R v Samford AFC RC Wa-work v Weston-super-Mare. Solikuli Boso v Canderhod, VS Rugby v Sultan Coldfield Town, Wisbech Town v Shepshed D. India, Wisself League, Premier division Salybridge v Hyde First division: Brid-co Pr Ave v Farsley Cette. Salifanoff Irish LEAGUE: Premier division: Gierroran v Gierravon, Nowny v Lotted.

SYDNEY-HOBART RACE: Line hor-curs: 1. Saycrasa (US) 2 days 20hr 3mm. 2 Brndsheils (Aus) 2 22-55, 3. Ausmaid

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Si Painok's Aih v Sheboume 17.35; RUGBY LEAGUE Club metches

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Obergurgi	25	140	Good		Vaned		-6	22/12
Solit		75	Fair	lcy	Packed		-3	21/12
St Anton Canada	30	280	Hard	Hard	Packed	Fair	-6	21/12
Lake Louise France	95	135	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-4	31/12
Alpe o'Huez	35	150	Hard	Worn	*Varieri	Wand	1	24/12
Avonez		80		Hard	Packed			24/12
Chemonx		125	Far	· Wors '	· Vaned	Cloud	. Ŏ	24/12
a Causaz	25	80	Hard	Ocen	Packed	Cloud	-1	24/12
a Plagne	40	150	Hard.	. WORT	Veried	Cloud	-2	24/12
La Tania	10	91	Hard	Artificial	Varied	Cloud	-1	24/12
es Arcs			. Fax	Wom	Vaned	Cloud	3	24/12
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	35			Wom	Vaneo	COOC	.5	31/12
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Cervinia	10	130	Hand	Opén		Cloud	Ô	23/12
Cortina	5	25.	Wom_	Artical	Packed	Cloud	.3 0	21/12
Lwgno	. 10	65	TAX	Afulicial Open	Crusty	Snow	-2	31/12
M di Campiglio	20	50	Hest	: Open	Packed	Cloud		20/12
Norway Gelo	٠.	<u>ښ</u> .				- رسنده - استعام		28/12
Switzerland	.00	60	- Lastin	Open-	PECKEC	`Lain	-4	20/14
Crans Montana	5	220	·Fair `	Artificial	Varied	Chart	-1	24/12
Grindelwald		80		ley	Packed		3	24/12
Klosters				Open			- 4	21/12
Murren .			Feir	Herd	Packed	Sun	4	24/12
St Moritz	10	50	Fair		Packed			21/12
Verbier				₩om	Crusty.	Cloud	3	24/12
Zermati United States	-15	100	Fair	· loy	Varied	Feir	-1	21/12
ASDEN	60	98	Good	Open.	Parked	Circuit	-6	26/13
Deer Valley	==	æ	Good		Packed		.3	26/12

RACING: JOCKEY PUTS TROUBLES BEHIND HIM

Maguire ends year on winning note

ADRIAN MAGUIRE has endured a traumatic week, but he ended the year on a high note with a superb winning ride on Artic Ground in the Mr & Mrs Tidball Novices' Handicap Hurdle at Warwick

yesterday.

Maguire resigned his retainer with David Nicholson's stable two days ago, but he will have no problem in retaining his position among the country's top jockeys.

His popularity has never been more evident, and, hav-ing been immediately congratulated by fellow rider, Norman Williamson, as they pulled up, he received a great reception from racegoers on his return to the winner's enclosure.

He did not ride in the following two races but, as he walked out to partner River Bay, who finished second to Cardinal Rule, ridden by Williamson, in the Next Year's The Big One Handicap Chase, he said. "It was nice to get a good reception from the

3.35 Nessun Doro.

GOING HEAVY

(£2,851: 2m 5f) (4)

PLUMPTON

12.50 Greyton, 1.25 Hawaiian Youth, 2.00 Cool Performance, 2.35 Kelly Mac. 3.05 Brook Bee.

12.50 di marco (morning after) national HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,793: 2m 4f) (8 numers) 1 2121 PHAR LESS HASSLE 30 (CD,S) T McGovern 7-12-4 G Marcy (7)

2.00 SOUTHERN F.M. RESOLUTION JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-0: £5,199: 2m 4l) (4)

1 CODIL PERFORMANCE 29 (S) Mrs. D Haing 11-4 ... @ Tormey 2 D410 LORO OF LOWE 13 (S) D Ventions 11-4 ... Life in Ferbay (7) 3 GHOST PATH 18 R O'Sulbrian 10-9 ... J Goldsten (5) 4 U MARY CHARM 36 L A Data 10-9 ... J Haile

-7 Cool Performance, 3-1 Lord Ot Love, 5-1 Ghors Path 25-1 Wary Coarn.

9-4 Nowby End. 6-2 Phar Leas Hassie, 4-1 Greyton, 5-1 Ballyto Nill, 16-1 Cur Nan Film, 25-1 Gill's Gale, Cheforthelog.

1.25 TINTO HILL HANDICAP CHASE

11-8 Harqalan Yough, 7-4 Ragamult 4-1 Regal Aura, 5-1 Indian Run



Webber: long-range double

crowd. And it was good to be back among the winners. After all, riding winners is what it is all about'

Artic Ground was strug-

Winning trainer Paul Web-ber was at Fontwell, where he was also successful with John Drumm, but his wife, Fiona, said: "It was great to have Adrian on board. "We had a pretty quiet time until about three weeks ago when the horses es suddenly came good." Nicky Henderson's horses

are in cracking form too and Premier Generation gave him his twelfth success in the past 15 days, under Mick Fitzgerald, in the Tiny Tim Novices' Hurdle. Reflecting on the stable's good run, Henderson said: "We're keeping the doc-tor away and long may it con-tinue. We're not doing anything different, the horses just

Native Charm made it two out of three this term in the Bob Cratchit Novices' Chase. while Henry Daly moved off the 13-mark for the season when Young Spartacus landed the 49's Christmas Present Handicap Hurdle

gling down the far side, but Maguire was at his usual determined best and, having pinched a good run on the inside on the home turn, he forced Artic Ground past Supreme Troglodyte approaching the final flight and they

2.35 ELLIS AND PARTNERS MOVICES CHASE

4-11 Popul Protica, 5-2 Kelly Mac, 20-1 Old Archives, 33-1 Made

3.05 CHAMPAGNE DELBECK HANDICAP CHASE

2-1 Stampore Warrior, 3-1 High Thyms. 7-2 Brook Ben, 5-1 Holy Sting, 8-1 others.

3.35 LADBROKE LAST RACE HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,740; 2m 1f) (7)

2-1 Nessun Core, 7-2 Milimoust, 4-1 Limii The Damaga, 8-1 Kg Wallace, Zatareli 18-1 Donahassiookimar, Doctor Bozwings

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS: M Pipe, 31 wirners from 65 numers, 47,7%; Miss K George, from 12, 25,0%, Mrs Ø Hane, 4 from 17, 23,9%; C Episton, 4 from 20,2%, T McGowen, 10 from 56, 17,9%; R Hodges, 10 from 50, 17,2%. JOCKEYS: C Wate, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; R Fanget, 3 from 14. 21.4%; T Gascorobe, 5 from 32, 15.6%, M Baschelor, 7 from 53, 13.2%, P Hide, 7 from 59, 11.9%, Only qualifiers.

LEICESTER (£7,328: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

12.45 Bora Bora, 1.15 Catherine's Way, 1.50 Round Robin, 2.20 Shanavogh, 2.50 Padara.

GOING: HEAVY (CHASE COURSE GOOD TO SOFT) 7 30AM INSPECTION

12.45 HUMBERSTONE NOVICES HURDLE £3,392: 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)

1.15 NEW YEAR NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,496: 2m 11) (5)

1.50 PARSLEY SELLING HURDLE (£1,842; 2m) (5)

10-11 Streichung, 7-4 Round Robin, 8-1 Sylphide, 12-1 Remember Star, 25-1 Pacts

2.20 WIGSTON HANDICAP CHASE 1 5255 S-1940 LIGHT 20 (CD.F.C.S) D Nicholson 10-12-0 7-4 Sees Boy, 11-4 Staling Light, 100-30 Statemogh; 7-1 Denicher, 12-

2.50 FORD MAIDEN CHASE (£3,106: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1-2 Partiess, 7-2 Check The Deck. 6-1 Self-mar, 54-1 The Hippy Motorch, 50-1 Books until Res.

3.25 GLEBE HANDICAP HUROLE.

(£3,468: 2m 4l 110yd) (5) 5-4 Bense Browne, 9-4 Dark Reged, 13-4 Shoofs, 14-1 Roothir Flight, 33-1 For last Robbs.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

1.05 Muhandis. 1.30 Daunted, 2.05 Such Boldness.-2.40 Jubilee Scholar, 3.15 Shabaash, 3.45 Comeoutofthefog.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW BEST

1.05 HANGOVER HANDICAP (£2,185: 1m 4f) (15 runners)

7-2 Satton's Shelle, 4-1 Warmit, 5-1 Mahamis, 8-1 Ginzbourg, 10-1 Spick Acc Span, Erozio Ruto, Supplies Son, 14-1 others.

1.30 NEW YEAR STAKES (3-Y-0: £2,608: 1m) (9)

2.05 AULD LANG SYME MAIDEN STAKES

2.40 FIRST FOOTHER CLASSIFIED STAKES

11-4 Kings Aron, 9-2 Confronte: 5-1 Critical Air, 11-2 Jubite Scholar, Special Fe-gon, 8-1 Mark Time, 18-1 Slip Jig. 18-1 biol/f Franchise.

3.15 ИТЕСОМЕ ТО 1999 НАМОІСАР

2-1 Granto Co Mile. 5-2 Miles Tale. 7-2 Shallesch. 5-1 Recipatio. 8-1 Parts

3.45 HAPPY NEW YEAR HANDICAP

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Warwick

Going: chase: good to soft, soft in places funders soft. Parties Soft.

12.50 (2m hole) 1. PREMIER GENERATION (M A Fitzperald, 11-10 few, Timelaceper's top rating); 2. Arctic Pancy
(M Marston, 16-11: 3. Choice Cat (R
Johnson, 33-1). ALSO FAN: 3-1 Nestricapour (Ath), 4 Ricardo, 12 Chappens (Sh),
25 Fiou du Boss, Misconduct, Shopanole, (Bih), 33 Fit To Bust, Genrandre, Jab,
50 Mister Piver, Sationa Quey, 66 Carbuchs, Shes, 100 Denohy in Fio, Isca Madan, Kornasta, 19 ren. 31, 61, 33, 61, 91, N
Henderson et Lambourn, Totte: 22-20;
21.50, 25.30, 29.70, DF, 217.90, CSF,
22.47.

E2247.

1. NATIVE CHARM (J A McCarthy, 2-1 km), 2, Rwer Wye (V Sattery, 3-1); 3, Sendritt (G Tomer, 100-1), ALSO RAN 9-4 Sol Music (5th), 15-2 Cabellus, 12 Royal Sombar (4th), 100 MB Bay San, Tuctor Falcon (8th), 8 ran. 4, 27, 14, dist, 191. C Morlock at Wantage, Tota: E3-30; e1-20, £1.10, £7.00. DF; £4-20. CSF.

Trichet £1,861,42.

2.20 (Sm 21 ct) 1, SMARTY (A P McCoy, 13-8); 2. Throuble Ahand (N Williamson, 6.4 law); 3, Majestic Stoom (J Culloy, 11-1), ALSO RAM: 6.1 About Term, 11 Buters Match (Ath), 40 Raging Gale, 50 Alpha Leather (Sirt), Coole Chemy, 8 man, 21, cts, 8, 14, Mar, J Piman at Upper Lambourn, Tota, 22.60; £1.40, £1.10, £2.10, 50.55, £3.30, CSP £4.30.

2.50 (Sin Ade) 1, YOUNG SPARTACUS (R Johnson, 9-2); 2, Tomba (C Usivellyn, 9-2); 3, Westery's Land (D J Burches, 11-2); ALSO BAN: 6-4 law Siren Song (Sih), 8 Ranger Saus (Sih), 14 Marshero (Ath), 6-788, 3, 12, 12, 44 H Day; 47 Lindow, Tota, 53.30, 22.10, £1.80, DF, £10.50, CSP, £2.24, £2.10, £1.80, DF, £10.50, CSP, £2.24, £1.10, £1.40, £1.10, £1.24, £2.24, £2.25, £2.25, £2.20, £1.80, DF, £10.50, CSP, £2.24, £2.20, £1.20, £1.20, £1.20, £2.20, £1.2

ran. 3, 13. I. L. L. H. Day-of Luctow. Tote: \$5.30; \$2.10. \$1.80. DF. £10.50. CSF: \$22.42.

3.20. (2m 4*10yd ch) 1. CARDINAL: RILLE N Willeamson. 5-1); 2. River Bay (A Maguire, 12-1); 3. Mr. Smaggle (R. Lotmon, B-1). ALSO RAN. 4-1. tex Around The Eale, 6 Hawatian Sam, 7 Calleva, Siar (4m), 15-2 Easty Joker, 10. Plunder Bay, 11 High Mood (50), 14 Saparisn (60), 10 par. 5. 4, Ind. 22, 19. Mass Variette Williams at Honerford. Tote: £6.00; £2.50, £2.50, £2.10. DF. £17.90. Tribata: £271.20. CSF. £56.71. Tribata: £271. ALSO RAN. 6-1 Kingsbridge, 10 Sunit Boy (3th), 2. Red Mast. Thanks Bg Felle, 16 Get On George, Smoking Gun, 20 Casa Fire, £5 Begin Agein, 32 Combe Springs, Meadows Boy (4th), Two Paidee (2m), 40 Maybe Later, Tacots Revence, 50 Caccin, Calstown Lond, 65 Hefoel Wise, Witheswaay Lady, 20 ran. MR- Puzzlemen & 1,14, 41, 31, 41, 0 Necholson at Temple Guiting, Tote: £2.30. £5.40, £2.20. £51.10. DF. £9.90. CSF. £59.92.

Jackpot: £7,108.00 - part won (pool of

Piacepol: 2832.10. Guadpol: £137.50.

Fontwell Park Going: soft

1.10 (2m % 110yd hole) 1. JAN JAM JAM JOEY (J Goldstein, 7-2); 2. Fine Attitude (10-1); 3. Jusz Debte (40-1). ALSO RAN. 2-1 law Yorkshire Edition, 50 Night Thyre (4th), 10 nm, NF Keen Bd. 5, 10. D Gosent, Tole: 64.70; 1.70, 22.50; 55.40. DF: 220.50. CSF: 236.47.

2.16 (3m 21 110yd ch) 1, Chillet MO-MCHYS (R Fayani, 3-1 k-lay), 2 Colonel Colt (3-1 k-lay), 9 ran, Dist. P Munphy, Tota: E3.50; E2.70, E2.40, DF: C8.50, CSF: E72.30.

2.40 (2m of 130yd hole) 1, JUST NEP (1 Optionre, 3-1; Richard Brane's rasp); 2, Wetab SBL (11-2); 3, Belanore Rock (11-2), 435 RAN -24 for Facility (57), 14 Far Davin (4th), 6 ran, NF. Top Note 114, 315 M/m L. Richards, 70%, 55.00; 51.50, 52.10, 52.00, DF; 52.70, CSF 521, 68, Tracest, 558.87. Top Note (8/1) was withdrawn not under starter's orders. Parks 4 applies to board prices only, deduction (10) in the pound.

S.10 (2m 31 ch) 1, JOHN DRUMM (Mr P Chelley, 5-2); Z. Amother Courte, (16-1), 3, Twin Palle, 4-1), ALSO RAN 64 4: Oprian Queen (591), 100 Preogative (691), 5 ras. NN, 7-1, P Wabber, Total 53.20; £1.40, £2.50 DF; £3.20; CSF 520.33.

20.33.

3.40 2m 21.30 pc holes 1, TAKEAMERICO, (10storne, 7-2); 2. Novolment (3-1), 3. Amodiser Night 65-2 fast ALSO PAN. 7-2 Macy (4th.) 5 ran. NPF Fourism Bd. 10, 17. O Sherwood Total 24.50; £1.90, ct. 50. DF: 25.80 CSF: £13.53. Placepot £157.90.

Catterick

Going: good good to soft in places Golong: good, good to soft in please
12.30 (2m Indie) 1. ES-GO (FI Basaman, 100.30); 2. Albaman (B-Possell, 11-1); 3. Leutenjulke (S Teytor, 8-1) ALSO RAN: p-4 law Finisherine, 6 Brilliant Star, 12 Arbert Tip Beer, (Shr), Orive Assured, 20 Acores, 25 July Minsteir (Min), 33 Bellina Boy, 10 Arbert Tip Beer, (Shr), Orive Assured, 20 Acores, 25 July Minsteir (Min), 33 Bellina Boy, 100 College Don (Shr), Our Frankle, 14 ran. NS: Chevaller Enant, 6, 7, nk, 31, G, R Bastiman at Webrerby, Total 24.50, C1 30, C2.50, C1 70, DF: 221.80 CSF C34.27.

EL80. DF: ES.50. CSF: £(0.95.

1.30 (2m hole) 1, DORANS WAY (N Fishmity, 13-2); 2, Cosned's Croft (F Therefor,
10-1); 3, Sedions Blades (C McCommack,
11-2); ALSO, (RAM: 9-4 fav Stanospeth
Belle, 8 Selings; 10 Two Bills, 12 Girostly
Appertion (4th), 18 Mendelud (5th), 20
Western General (fith), Westerbrickoussey, 25
Coptain Tamory, Risins Magor, ED Backinsk,
109 Arrange A Gerne, 14-ken, 14-; 10, 23,
nl. 31, G Moore at Middleburn, Tam E7: 30,
22-30; E2-00, E2-00-DF: ESS.26, CSF:
ES9.08, Tucast; £354.70.

S9.08. Tocast: 636.70.

2.00 (2m 3) ch) 1, BOYZONTOOMA (R MCGraft 14-1): 2, Souther (G Lee, 13-2): 3, Cherester: Baryland (B Powed, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Cartiste Bandards (4th): 13-2 Mesternison, 8 Par Many, Stoniesby (5th), 10 Mester Facte, 29 Somery, 25 Borry Rigg. (9th), 33 Chempood Jack: 11 nm, 4; 14, sh hd, dar. 2-4 W Sonry at Contest: Tota: \$17.20, £4.80, £1.90, £3.20, DF: \$78.10; CSF: £87.27, Yalast: £965.36

DP: 6520. CSF: £13.94
3.00 (2m 1/1 10/pd ch) 1. THE NEXT
WALTZ (R Supple, 3-1); 2, Sale Force (8
Gretten, 14-1), 3, Anotic Fox (P Neen, 5-2
favi, ALSO RAN: 13-2 Heryt Way, 7 Grate
Date (5th), 14 fm The Man (5th), Rings Semon, 16 Church Law, 20 Bit O'Speed, Cuilene Lake, 25 Dark, 00th, 33 Darbys Gonse
(4th), 50 Another Red, Coppenius; 14
ran, 8, 2, 13, 14, 29, L Lungo at Casuthershown Tota: 64.30; 52.40, 53.70,
£1 50, DF: £40 MJ. CSP. £37.69, Thicss:
£113.32

E13.32.
S.30 (3m 1/110ychicle) 1, FLAT TOP (C McComack, 11-4 km), 2, Jeople's Prospect (R McCorath, 8-1); 3, Hillchillian (N Hannity, 4-1), ALSO RAN: 5-1 Permyaha, 12 Kinda Groovy (6th), Rescally (5th), Soloman Springs, 16 Mr Christie, 20 Acid, Lyras Z. Taletherin (4th), 35 Chanson in Incarl, Denticutata, 68 Barnstormer, 14 ran, 11, 21, 2, 5, 11, MW Essterby at Steriff Maten, Toka: 63.70; F1.80, F3.20, 21.20, DP, £11.40, CSP, £21.78, Tincast £83.86.

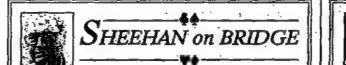
Placepol: £37,30.

THE

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News as it happens A unique resource from The Times website. Breaking licker-laps news throughout the day from 7am to 10pm backed by bulletins and previews





BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times.

Lesson 37 - Responding One of a Suit
As I have said before, one of the many purposes behind bidding is to discover if there is an eight-card major-suit fit. Consequently, all you need to respond One of a Major to partner's opening is at least four cards in the suit and 6 or more HCP.

Why 6 HCP? The answer to this is easy to see if you consider that there is rarely any point in responding unless you think that a game may be on. Otherwise let parmer play the hand at the one level in his best suit for if you force the auction higher you are more likely to go down in whatever con-

tion higher you are more likely to go down in whatever con-tract you eventually sentle.

With 20 or more HCP partner would usually open at the two level (as we will see in a later article). So, the normal maximum for a one-level opening bid is about 19 HCP. You generally need about 25 HCP between your two hands for game, therefore you should usually respond with 6 HCP but pass with fewer than that.

- 1	/A 5		KQJ5	(191)	•	AQ4		(C)		XJ78
	~		874	l'act		J873 ·				KJ76
			532		-					65
		_			-	87			_	
		•	K65		*	Q1065			+	874
1	(10)	•	KJ1065	(E)	٠	AQJ4		(F)	4	10872
		۵	874	-	Ó	762		• •		762
		0	588		O	10872	•		_	AQJ4
		-	Q 5			63				63

With Hands (A) and (B) it is quite straightforward. In both instances you have a four-card major, so bid it. It doesn't matter if it is a strong one as on Hand (A) or a weak one as on Hand (B). With both majors, as in Hand (C), bid the lower. One Heart. If partner has a four-card spade suit he will bid it and the fit will be found on the next round.

Just because a bid needs only four cards doesn't mean you have to hid something also with more. Personnel One Seeds.

have to bid something else with more. Respond One Spade on Hand (D). Hands (E) and (F) raise a point which, in my view, is often misunderstood by even quite good players. When you have support for partner's minor suit you should use your common sense. It is true that you have not yet found the major gith card major fit so by all pagent bid a good the magic eight-card major fit, so by all means bid a good four-card major such as on *Hand* (E). But when your major is poor and your support good, as on *Hand* (F), this is asking for trouble. You should raise partner immediately. After all, if he has a good hand and wants to proceed he can always introduce a lour-card spade suit if he has one.

If Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

TYMPF a. Tissue paper b. Silver coin

c. A snare drum NERF BAR

a. A drinking den b. Nut/raisin chocolate

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard PERFECTA a. A betting ploy c. Highest score HAGGADAH

h. An epidemic

c. Sacred writing

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KRENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hastings
The Hastings Premier is now well and truly underway at the Cinque Ports Hotel in Hastings. Amongst those who got off to a good start was Sergei Shipov of Russia, Matthew Sadha of Casat Britisia and the dler, of Great Britain, and the Bosnian grandmaster Ivan

Sokolov. White: Sergei Shipov Black: Tony Miles . Hastings 1998

Queen's Gambit Accepted d4 c4 N3 0-0

Can Black improve on this?

Black John Emms fastings 1998

063 865 Rd1 QC2 15 Qx55 Bxc4 Qf3 Bb3 Rh1 Kf1 Re1 Bx4 Bxb5 Bxd7 Rxe7 Byt6 d5 Kg2 Ne4

Keene online

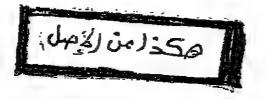
You can send me your queries, put zles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keene@che saol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be pub-

Times book

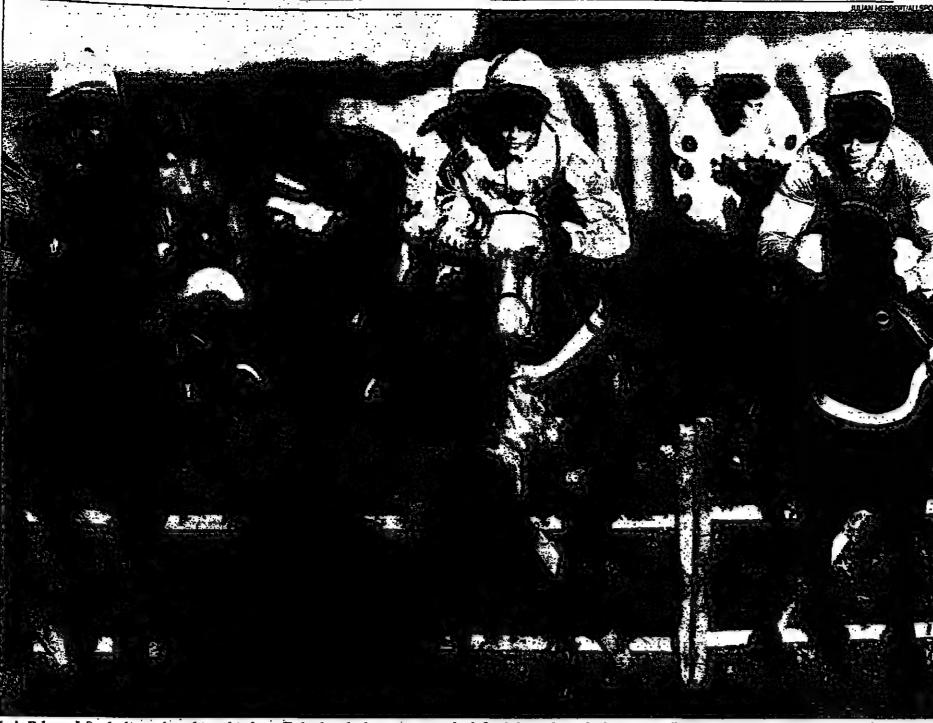
The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing Raymond Keene writes on ches

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Speelman — Schauwecker, Hastings 1972. Black could immediately promote his b2-pawn but then White would capture the rook on d1 and the game would most likely fizzle out to a draw.



Richard Evans believes Williams will stay on cloud nine at Cheltenham today



Lady Rebecca, left, who has registered two victories at Cheltenham in the past two months, is fancied to make a winning return to Prestbury Park today in the Tote Handicap Hurdle

Lady Rebecca ready to extend run

of intent are made by much of humanity in pursuit of leading a better life, it is not too difficult to guess the new year reso-lution likely to be made this morning by Venetia Williams. The talented trainer, who

was voted racing personality. of the year recently for the way she has taken the National Hunt ranks by storm, remarked famously at Kempton on Boxing Day: "I'm on cloud nine and the view is fabulous." Oh, to stay there.

After a dream 12 months. which included winning the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup and the King George VI Chase with Tecton Mill - now clear favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup — the woman from deepest Herefordshire is likely to offer up a silent prayer that she continues to have a clear view of racing's peaks during

At Chelrenham this afternoon. Miss Williams should not have to wait too long to receive a reminder of the thrill which is obtained by sending out a winner at National Hunt racing's headquarters as Lady Rebecca lines up for the Tote

Handicap Hurdle (2.10). The prolific mare has won very much on the upgrade, ture the form of two years ago, judged on her demolition of while Romancer, returning to

A the first of the



ON TELEVISION

Zafarahad in a fast time at Cheltenham 20 days ago. That victory was the second around Cheltenham this season and her first success there, back in November, saw her defeat numerous subsequent winners. Papo Kharisma, trained by the in-form Philip Hobbs, had his winning run ended by Three Farthings at Wincanton on Boxing Day and this repre-

sents a jump in class.

Alpine Panther, running in the colours of Peter Savill, chairman of the British Horseracing Board, is on a five-timer, but the Mary Reveley-trained six-year-old must show considerable improvement over a trip arguably

short of his best. The David Nicholson-trained Castle Sweep missed nine of her 12 starts and is still last season and is yet to recapwhile Romancer, returning to

hurdling after disappointing over fences, hails from Nigel Twiston Davies's yard, which is out of form. All of which should enable Lady Rebecca to enhance her impressive

With the exception of the Nicky Henderson-trained Katarino, the present crop of juvenile hurdlers this side of the of the ordinary. However, several newcomers make their hurdling debut in the Steel Plate Trial Juvenile Novices' Hurdle (1.35), the first of four races televised by Channel 4, and may offer some dues to the Triumph Hurdle here in

March. Of those with proven form,
Dangerus Precedent, winner
of three starts for Charlie Eger-

various form lines give him the beating of Wave Rock, Noble Demand and Mothers Help. However, it would be no surprise to see this race go to a newcomer and Henry Heald is a tentative choice.

A winner on the Flat when with Peter Makin, he was rated in the high seventies and irish Sea appears nothing out, is reported to have schooled . well since moving to Jim Old's

yard. Susan Nock attempts to rekindie Senor El Betrutti's enthusiasm by equipping the grey with blinkers for the first time in the Unicoin Chase (2.45). However, Northern Starlight looks the logical choice, having made all the running to win the Tripleprint Gold Cup over course and dis-

Ayr to inspect again

THE meeting scheduled for Ayr tomorrow hinges on an 8.30 in-spection this morning. Mark Kershaw, the clerk of the course, looked at the track yesterday and reported: "Things have improved significantly but there are still some patches which are very wet. The big problem is that more rain is forecast tonight and tomorrow and if that comes it will really put the meeting in jeopardy. But at the same time we have to give things every chance to improve."

Chance to improve.

There will be an inspection at 7.30 this morning to see if today's Leicester meeting can go ahead. Clerk of the course Nick Lees said: "We could have raced yesterday and I think we will just get away with it provided there isn't any more rain."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Splendid Thyne (3.55 Cheltenham)

With Terry Casey's yard having struck form, Splendid Thyne is fancied to continue the run. The Stayers' Hurdle needs his first run of the season, is spot on today.

Next best: Flaked Oats (1.00 Cheltenham)

tance 20 days ago for the Pipe-McCoy team. That form received a boost when fourthplaced Dr Leunt trotted up at Kempton on Monday.
However, as one famous

punter of yesteryear once remarked, there is no profit to be made from the obvious and Eirespray, a strong finisher on the upgrade, is the value choice to floor the likely favourite. Well regarded by his Yorkshire trainer, Sue Smith. he showed typical battling quali-ties to overhaul Maitre De Musique at Wetherby on Boxing Day and Chettenham's uphill finish should suit his style of running.
Linden's Lotto landed some-

thing of a gamble for Tony Martin's stable when travel-

around the cross-country course in November and he, at least, has the advantage of having negotiated the unique turning course in the middle

of Presibury Park. However, he may struggle over the shorter trip offered by the Sporting Index Select Cross Country Chase (3.20), in which he faces classier opposition. Nicholson appears to have found the right oppor-tunity for Banjo, who has plummeted down the weights in recent months. Winner of last year's Scottish Grand National, Banjo made an encouraging seasonal reappearance behind Thermal Warrior at Sandown and his chance will Increase if the ground be-

comes genuinely good.
The Miles Gosling Handicap Chase (1.00), run over an extended four miles, is arguably the most interesting race on the card but, somewhat surprisingly, is not covered by Channel 4.

Flaked Oats could be a blot on the handicap judged on his staying on third behind Royal Barge at Exeter 15 days ago. Paul Nicholls deliberately sidestepped the Welsh National on Monday with his lightly-raced chaser to run here and his patience can pay a handsome

2.10 THURLESTONE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE

13-8 Secto Guide 9-2 Danasc. Dycostrop. 11-2 Patestato. 8-1 Rocky Park, 10-1 others.

2.40 DEVON ALT AMBULANCE NOVICES HANDICAP

LATINGS (24,377; 2011 11 11 11 190) (0)

1 7131 NATIVE FLING 17 (0.5) P Histor 7-12-0 R Durmoody 99

2 29- CAMARRA BDY 252 (0.5) E. Lanes 11-11-10 JR Kannings 89

3 -228 50 50 HERRY 22 (5.) R Almer 7-11-6 J Frost 85

4 35-4 DOWETTO 15 (5.) C. J Piece 10-10-8 ... L Camarius (3 - 5 - 99-4 MR) POPPLETON 14 (7) R Subterion 10-10-4 ... C Manufe 1322

5 - 39-5 SET CHILDRAFT 228 B Minera 9-10-0 ... D Sates (3 - 7 - 242 LYPHARD'S FALZE 14 (5) T George 8-10-0 ... S Wynns 94

8 5641 CREDO BDY 17 (5) K Bishop 10-10-0 ... R Greene - 6-4 Native Flory 3 - 2 6 6 5 Heavy, 6-1 Dowets, 13-2 Lyphard's Fanile 7-1 Camara Boy, 8-1 59 Papperson, 20-1 Spt Childraft, Cedo Boy.

9-4 Handy Less 4-1 Kesthord Tissa, 5-1 Tissashy Highway, 7-1 Khalidi, 8-1 others.

3.40 BACING CHANNEL HOVICES HANDICAP

3.10 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,495: 2m 3° 110yd) (9)

(£3,038: 2m 7f 110yd) (9)

CHASE (£2,377: 2m 1f 110yd) (8)

12.30 Kadou Nonantais

1.00 Flaked Oats

2.10 Lady Rebecca 2.45 MR STRONG GALE (nap) 3.20 Linden's Lotto 3.55 Lord Jim

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.00 FLAKED OATS.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.30 BARING BINGHAM HOVICES CHASE (57,003: 2m 5f) (8 runners) 18-111 VADDA WINAFIAS ID (6.5) (0.8 G Mercer) D Shewcood 6-11-12 ___ J Osborne 778 | 102 311-13 SORG OF THE SHORD OF (SP.C.) FOR CASE Upin Webser J. Gib. 11-17 ... G. Bradley 7 |
103 0-0054 DURBOCK TOWN 20 6* Vertex F Vertex F-11-4 ... S. Burrough 105 517-64 ESHORD 44 695 S) P. Promogen IM Bradley 7-11-4 ... S. Burrough 105 24-16 LOSD MOELE 20 (Fig. Common March 104 Merch 105 24-16 LOSD MOELE 20 (Fig. Common March 104 Merch 105 11-4 ... J. Cultoty 106 11-7 RASHSTON 14 (G) (6 Merch 105 Merch 107 11-4 ... E Byrns (f) 107 P23-69 WELSH HARVEST 20 (f) Wilson (f) Wilson (f) W. Pupe 5-10-7 ... A P. McCoy

BETTING: 4-5 Kedou Monantars, 7-2 Song Of The Second, 7-1 Magaziou, 8-1 Lord Morele, 10-1 Festion, 33 1 others 1998: MARLER 8-11-4 C Liberdiys, 79 2) N Tweston-Downes 6 ran

The continues of the Caterology Care in the case of th

1.00 MILES GOSLING HANDICAP CHASE (£10,445; 4m 1f) (9 runners)

Long handicage Mics Diston 9-9 Lay It Ott 8-4, Guites (rum 8 1, Datis) Ciston 7-12. BETTING: 11-4 Seven Towns, 3-1 Flatest Oct. 5-1 Septem, Mess Desten, 3-1 Ham Dit Practe Destet's Street 16-

1998: KENGAL CAVALIER 3-10-3 D Salter (7-1) S Militare 10 can

1.35 STEEL PLATE THAL JUYENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-0: £4,691: 2m 1f) (11 runners)

[4] 24,091. 28 19 (11 Institute)
21411 OANGERUS PRECEDENT 24 (6.5) (C Bracker) C Egenon 11-12 N Williamson B F221 SADLER'S SECRET 78 (BLDS) (A Nelscor) M Pipe 11-4 A P McCay CLASSIC BAPACT 51F (1 Boom & M Bischnum) P Marphy 11-0 M A Ricoperad HERRY HEAD 130F (W Surd 1) 0dd 11-0 T J Merphy 3443 MORE DEMAND 14 (BR) Rats I Feycoch) & Beldeng 11-0 T J Merphy 3443 MORE DEMAND 14 (BR) Rats I Feycoch) & Beldeng 11-0 A Maguera 622 SADDLERS' RDE 52 (BP) Proof Farm Raterol) D Northologo 11-0 A Maguera 622 SHERIGMIZAR 35 (B) (A Schorloop O Sherwood 11-0 A Colombia 2322 WAVE ROCK 20 (Earl Caropin) Mest M Kinglet 11-0 C Userbin 12-23436 ZLEYAR 14 Stanton Society Mrs. M Kinglet 11 M Indicar-Davist 11-0 C Userbin 12-3436 ZLEYAR 14 Stanton Society Mrs. C Indica 11-0 Mill Morthers Hell? 20 (S) (Bertschier Components Lint) D Williams 10-13 S Dortack

BETTMG: 3-1 Dangerus Precedent, 5-1 Sasjer's Secret, 6-1 Sheganzar, 7-1 Heory Heald, 8-1 Wave Rock, Michaes Help, 10-1 Noble Demand, 12-1 pities.

**Times ConsDOM BLATERIOR (14-6 Times) (12-1) W Cary & can

NOBLE DEMAND is improving and should be duried by this still track.

2.10 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (£10,241: 2m 5f 110yd) (5 runners)

401 839/35 CASTLE SWEEP 13 (G.S.) (Lord Vestey) D. Michrison 8-12-0 ... 402 11-141 LADY RESECCA 20 (CD.F.G.S) (Komersley Opt) Miss V. Wilkons 403 01-111 ALPINE PAINTER 16 (G.S.) (P. Savin) Miss M. Reviely 8-18-6 404 G3/32- ROMANICER 401 (B.G.) (M. Alchel, N. Tektan-Danke 8-19-5 ... 405 -11112 PAPO KHARESIMA 8 (SF.CD.G.S.) (Redonists) P. Hobbe 8-18-0

BETTENE: 11-10 Lady Refecca, 3-1 Along Paning, 7-2 Pago (Gargma, 6-1 Casta Sweep, 12-1) 1988: PRINCEFUL 7-10-0 A Fanant (6-5 lav) Mrs J Pernan 6 can

Castle Sweep 63 5th of 11 to Princéha in hurdie grade 1 af Ascot (3m 1 119yd, sett), previously 6i-1 3rd of 7 to Juyush in hurdie grade 2 af Ascot (2m 4), poor to sett). Larly rebecca lear Salzandad (21 in S-unuse hurdie (), Alpho Pardher best Flying Gunner I-d in 9-usinte handicso hurdie al Bartof 19 50(1), Romanocar 291 2nd of 4 to Lake Rariba in provide chase of Chema 141 2nd of 6 to Three Fantaings in handlesp burde at Whicardon (2m 14) in 11-rument handlesp burde at Sandown (2m 6), good).

LADY REBECCA was impressive here had time and as hard to copecie 2.45 UNICOIN CHASE [SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND

TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£17,636: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

Long handicas: Go Universal 9-13. BETTRES: 4-1 Coormany, 9-8 Northern Sterfight, Exespay, 8-1 Pete The Person, Mr Strong Sale, 8-1 Konvekt King, 10-1 Pace Toyne, Mahler, 16-1 Jaimta, 25-1 Seror El Betrutt, 33-1 So Utoversal. 1998: PETE THE PARSON 9-10-0 M A Fazgeald (3-1 lay J Old 6 ran

Seried 15 Bestrall bester at discusse 58 bid of 12 to farrier inde as handicag chase at Checkerham (3m 11 110)rd, good to soid. Mornham Starlight beat Strale 1 (and 11 110)rd, good to soid. Mornham Starlight beat Strale 2 (and 15 and EIRESPRAY won in good style at Wetherby and can dely a 5th benefity

3.20 SPORTING INDEX SELECT CROSS COUNTRY CHASE (£8,440: 3m 1f) (6 numers)



Court Melody released in lendicare chase 3 Chebrisham (3m 1) 110yd, pood to soft), previously 111 2nd of 4 to The Touseach in handicare chase at a case (3m 1) 110yd, good). Bening 15 vith of 6 to Thermal Marker in bandicare chase at Plannoinn (3m 5) 110yd, good). Cavalern 4 2nd of 4 to Whoppers Delight in anxietar handicares at Plannoinn (3m 1) 110yd, good to soft). Linder's Lotto fees Felyspeenchannels 51 in care country at Delighting flow 7, good, Familion dischase 4th to Chambellan Ben on chase at Non-care-order (2m 1), good) Saile Albezd 13 4th of 9 to Name Of Our Father in arcsisor handicap chase at Ludton (3m, good to soft). CAVALERO is usually an excellent jumper and should take to these tences.

3.55 UNICOIN HOMES SPA HURDLE (£6,775: 3m 110yd) (4 runners)

1 111- LORD JBM 158F (CD.G.S) RAYs S Thomas) J Old 7-11-12 _____ T J Murphy 135 2 -12213 OCEAN HAWK 19 (D.F.G.S) RM Archer N Teisten-Davies 7-11-12 ____ C Lienethy B323 3 14540 SELVER WEDGE 55 (C.G.S) (If Roborts M Henderson B-11 0 ____ M A Fitzyarial C 4 1112-P SPLENDID THYME 55 (S) (J Galvasoni) T Casey 7-11-0 _____ W Marston 138 BETTING: 2-1 Splendad Thyne: 5-2 Ocean Hawa. 3-1 Salver Wooga. 7-2 Lord Jim. 1988: MIGHTY MOSS 7-11-4 bit F Hatchy (11-4 bir) D Nightologn 5 ran

Lord Jinn near Easy Feeton neck or 6-turnner bordle at Sandown (2m 6), cold) Ocean Hawk 311 3rd or 11 to Frincetol in hurdle grade 1 at Ascod (2m 12 100-d), cold), previously heat Tradio 41 to 7-turner newco citize grade 2 at Viscosciar (2m 7) 110yd, cold (3 blow Wedge 42) this of 10 b bisser Morror to knowled at Chepotow (2m 4) 110yd, good to soll) with Splendid Thyrio (20 better oil) pulled up.

LORD JAM, in good form on the Flat tast summer can make a wkening return to hundle **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRAINERS Wins Rnrs %
Mics V Wilders B 25 30 8
0 Sterminal 11 58 19 0
K Balley 15 90 167
J King 5 30 167
J King 5 30 167
C Egerton 4 28 143

Sharpical out

SHARPICAL will not attempt to atone for last season's slightly unlucky defeat in the Ladbroke Hurdle, a week tomorrow. The gelding, who made a bad mistake at the final flight when sixth in the Leopardstown feature last season, will instead be aimed at a repeat victory in the Tote Gold Trophy.

He has not run since winning the Newbury contest last February, and his trainer, Nicky Henderson, reported: "Sharpical is not quite ready."





THUNDERER

3-1 Major Sporsor, 7-2 Ressum Aspect, 5-1 Meldown Park, 10-1 others. 1.20 CHIDERELLA JUVENILE HOVICES SELLING

HURDLE (4-Y-0: £1,645: 2m) (13)

6-2 Melanes Hall, 7-2 fra Tel, 5-1 Elony's Hosser, 6-1 Wymbury Filyer, 8-1 Jagot, 12-1 Hoding Place: 16-1 Beld Legacy, 20-1 Olivers. COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAMERS: A Streeter. 8 winners bons 25 namers, \$20%, T Easterby, 10-term 37, 27.0%, or Morpen, 10 both 47, 21.9%; Mrs M Rentley, 24 term bons 37, 27.0%, or Morpen, 10 both 47, 21.9%; Mrs M Rentley, 24 term 114, 21.1%, L Langu, 9 from 58, 16.5%; J Leiterson, 3 born 20, 16.0%; OCCCCS: T Sley, 5 winners from 27 rides, 18.5%; R Gener, 12 born 67, 17.9%; N Herrocks, 6 from 39, 15.4%; R Supple, 9 from 71, 12.7%; L West, 10 broth 83, 12.0%.

1.55 ROBINSON CRUSOE MAIDEN CHASE (£2,814: 3m 11 110yd) (16)

8 ASS JURIAL E PUPAGE 5 (137) F SEEDIN 5-11-3

7 (502 MONESEUR DARGY 25 J Adem 8-11-5 S. 25 Days

8 4806 PERIS OF THE JURI 16 F MARGEN 7-11-5 R. McGrath

9 02-P RYE MIRK 16 J Aproley 8-11-5 R. McGrath

10 17 (178) THE OTHER HALF 6 L Lungo 7-11-5 R. Auction

11 2078 THE OTHER HALF 6 L Lungo 7-11-5 Jek A Damasoy (2)

20-01 TRUS RIVER 4 (2) May M Reviety 7-11-5 Jek A Damasoy (2)

25 PERZ (67 AND (10/ER 48) (3) R Tale 6-11-6 Jek F Headbard

14 JSW 01.D BETSY 701 Ms S Smith 9-11-0 D J McGrath

15 PERS POLITICAL MANDATE 32 R Hom 6-11-0 C McGrath

16 2-84 SSTER ANL 18 (5) Ms S Smith 7-11-0 G Step F Head

17 FROM TOTAL 7-2 John 10 Ferror 5-1 Monester Otto: 6-1 Sixter Smit. 7-1 United Step F Head (3) The Comment (3) 3-1 France Tribe, 7-2 Joint Le Farige, 5-1 Monateur Ourcy, 6-1 Sester Gale, 7-1 Up And Oue, 72-1 Rpc Rep., 74-1 Ten Other Hall, 20-1 (Sees).

2.25 JACK AND THE BEARSTALK HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,775; 2m) (6)

1 3313 CUMTRY ORCHO 36 (0.F.G.5) Mrs M Renday
2 0251 CUMTRY ORCHO 36 (0.F.G.5) Mrs M Renday 6-11-10 M H Manghton (5)
2 0251 CUMBRAN BACSTRO 15 (8.C.0.S.3) T Learney 6-11-1 L Wyor
3 3377 ALPINE HOLENAY 16 (0.F.) M W Earley 6-11-1 L Wyor
4 132/ KINTAM 1337 (6.F.O.S.5) T Domenty 9-10-5 — S Story
5 -216 SOLDER MAK 13 (F.O.S.) T Domenty 9-10-5 — E Thinking
6 -221 MARSE MAKO 20 (0.5) K Margon 6-10-1 — Mr R Fordend (7)

9-4 Curebrian Massico, 11-4 Country Outbid, 5-1 Soldier Mais, 13-2 others. 2.55 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON HANDICAP CHASE (£4,825; 2m) (7)

5-2 Count Remodel, 3-1 Danies, 6-1 Mospetain, 12-2 Political Tower, 7-1others

3.30 PETER PIPER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,024: 2m) (14)

\$2,024: 2m). (14)

1 9411 RAMIT 18 (0.0.5) A Streeter 4-11-10 _______ T Bey
2 -352 SULANDAMANA 21 J Review 5-11-7 ______ D Byers
2 0-05 RESPRANTE 18 J Housed Jahnson 5-11-5 ______ D Parier
2 3144 MARSH MARROUD 32 (0.5) 6 Revu 5-11-5 ______ D Review 5-11-5 ______ Revulation 5)

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5 54-0 THE HOLMOSELS 51-14 Maillonax 5-11-5 Bary Lyons
7 0840 GABLE PROBE 18 M Biolog 5-11-5 LNE Representation
9 FREP 10NES COUNTRY 41 M May 17-11-1 K Advance
10 -004 JUNES COUNTRY 41 M May 17-11-1 K Advance
11 -004 JUNES COUNTRY 41 M May 17-11-1 S Garden
12 0005 SHE'S ALL HEART (1 Lingue 5-10-12 R Supplies
13 04-0 CAMADAN PARTASY 15 MS V Ward 5-10-4 R Supplies
14 0008 PRIS GOLD 16 A Smith 70-18-0 S 10-4 R Supplies
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THUNDERER 12.40 Norski Lad. 1.10 Breteche. 1.40 Holdimclose, 2.10 Saxon Duke, 2.40 Native Fling, 3.10 Handy Lass. 3.40 Selberry. GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES)

12.40 HAPPY NEW YEAR JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-0: £2,394; 2m 1f 110yd) (10 runners)

13-8 Norski Lud, 7-2 Doublet, 5-1 Another Bevelod, 8-1 Dashing Clief, Travesick, 10-1 Luffeh, 16-1 Mair D'Or, 33-1 gibes.

1.10 KENNFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,716: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

7-4 Sphil Lund, 5-2 Bretacto, 6-1 Viscount Tolly, 8-1 Congr Battare, 10-1 Finaless Wooder, Karacha, 14-1 gaters

(£3,157: 2m 7f 110yd) (10)

Mr. D C'Aleira (7) — 11-4 Holdiniciese, 7-2 Cillion Garne, 9-2 Albertaria, 5-7 Paggaio, 8-1 Swigness Gold, 12-1 Divine Chance, 14-1 Molling, Dunicles County, 25-7 others.

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HURDLE (£1,942: 2m 1f 110yd) (7) 1 0111 SEJERRY 6 GD.S.SI EL Jarres. 5-12-2 (6ct) J.R. Kommondo 2 SON ORIENTAL STYLE 15 (V) 6 Exiding 5-10-9 __F Konly (7) 3 -PSP SANDORAN 4 M Hill 6-10-3 ________ D. Safter (3) 4 -PSP LINCOMMER 27 P Johns 8-10-1 ______ P. Ryen (7) 5 -POR NATIVE TANKOL USE M Compace 6-10-0 _____ NA Nacioneth 6 -SGF VEILED DANGER 22 R POX 6-10-0 _____ NA Nacioneth 7 JOSS ANOTHER CHARICER 32 (6) D Gandollo 8-10-0 ___ S. Wynne 1.40 THURLESTONE HOTEL NOVICES CHASE

8-13 Settemy 6-1 Onestal Style, 13-7 Linstander, Veilet Dinco., 12-1 others. COURSE SPECIALISTS

hom 152, 21.7% B (Albuman, 9 sora 52, 17.3%; P Albunis, 6 born 41, 14.6%, R Alms, 13 form 93, 14.0%; A P Jones, 3 form 22, 13.6%. JOCKEYS: R Dummoth, 32-miners from 119 (fees, 3) 1%, 5 Wynne, 4 from 14, 20 GW; C Meesle, 17 from 95, 17 9%, P Hodey, 10 from 89, 14.5%; J Frest, 19 from 144, 13.2%; D Saler, 9 from 80, 11.3%.

EDUCATION

Mixing business with pupils

Children in education action zones benefit from private-sector funds and ideas, reports Charles Rigby

veryone said that the Government had run out of ideas for turning around failing schools. But civil servants appear to have had a sudden spurt of inspiration: the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) is investing £1 million in deprived areas, to be managed and spent using a strict business At last, a radical attempt at

educational regeneration suspension of the curriculum and new teaching methods is being made. So, as a busi-nessman. I joined up to work in Grimsby Education Action Zone (EAZ), spent months persuading the local education authority (entrenched old Labour) of my bona fides and ended up sitting opposite Jeremy Paxman on Newsnight.

How much money are you putting in?" he asked me outright, before even knowing my name. Twice I squirmed and twice he repeated the question until he got my reply: £50,000. Some might wonder what

we business people were letting ourselves in for. The Education Minister asks you for generous help, measures your gift, then tells you it's not enough. But we in Grimsby have some good ideas. Getting jobs for a dozen truants would have a significant impact on Grimsby's unemployment statistics. We think we can turn them into well-motivated and



School's out: children as young as nine are being temporarily removed from the system to be given confidence-building life skills

responsible citizens without their going anywhere near a classroom, and get them a job afterwards. The trick is to take them out of their normal surroundings for a short residential course, which they pay for partly out of money they have

The World Challenge Social Exclusion Project in Grimsby may be one of the most radical in England, yet the DfEE does not even produce a newsletter to share good ideas between the 12 EAZs

We are removing children as young as nine from the system - temporarily, at first to give them life skills outside the classroom. They undertake expeditions and programmes away from home, developing self-esteem, confidence, initiative and discipline. It is a cheap way of letting them learn and enjoy life;

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it simultaneously also makes them more employable. They will undertake social and community projects, outdoor activities and team-building exercises, something that Ofsted-measured examination results. could possibly take into account. They are taught to communicate, to tolerate, to negotiate - in short, to manage.

All this will cost 10 per cent of the EAZ budget because part of the programme will teach disaffected children to make and save money, thus subsidising their own extracurricular education and keeping them off the streets.

An attractive part of the programme is that once underperforming pupils restore their own self-esteem, they may return to school and acquire some academic qualifications to add to their personal training. Not a bad idea, and one we would like to replicate nationally. But when I told Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, about it, there was something in the eye that hovered between incomprehension and disbelief. When I said it was free because the truants have to pay their own way, her reaction seemed confused: how could anybody have an idea that does not re-

quire government funding? Soon, too, schools in the zone will have a comprehensive range of IT equipment and expertise for their children, as well as mentoring and out-of-school counselling for children who apparently have nothing to live for Heads, local government, businesses and parents will have new hope, made possible by

an exciting new set of skills,

provided the Treasury does

not torpedo a programme costing a mere £18 million, compared with a strategic regeneration budget of £450 million.

Whenever an idea is mooted in Grimsby, the cost, not the value is so heavily scrutinised that the Government appears to be a reluctant paymaster. When our IT business parmer set about networking every home in the zone, all the DfEE could do was to query the cost

here is no doubt that Government wants a partnership between our local authority, businesses and educators to work. If you ask people who, to remain in business, have to be successful — to come up with a good idea to tackle a particular problem, this is what they will do.

But they have to be given the freedom to make it work. I have now been told that I am no longer a director of Grimsby action zone: I am a trustee and it is a charity. So I am personally liable for its success. But our good ideas remain audited by the Treasury and are flourishing only in a deprived corner of Humberside.

EAZs must avoid repeating the mistakes of LEAs. The zones must be doggedly radi-cal if they are to excel, and I am sure that in time all this will thange, that the good ideas will be valued for their true and minimal cost.

They had better, or here is one businessman who will think he has wasted his time and money.

● The author is chairman of World Challenge Expeditions and a director of the North-East Lin-

What will you sign up to learn in 1999?

modern new year what the White Heather Club was to last night's television schedules: a previously unavoidable part of the annual celebrations that has fallen into disuse. Many barely outlasted the Hogmanay hangover, but at least

they forced us to consider, however briefly, a little self-

Two adult education organisations are this week trying to revive the practice to begin to make a reality of the Governments desire to promote lifelong learning. They face an uphill struggle, if the Cam-

paign for Learning's atfrom celebrities is anything to go by. The pledges range from the bizarre (Michael Fish learning to play the drums) to the banal (Lord Puttnam learning to send email). Tony Blair is playing safe with 'learning to be more proficient on the com-

The most striking thing about the collection, however, is the number of people associated with the Government's educational agenda who are apparently too knowledgeable or busy to want to learn anything new. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, for example, intends to learn to be more assertive and forthright" in his com-

munications, while Doug Mc. Lifelong Avoy, the general secretary of the National Unlearning ion of Teachers. is still says he is seek ing a psychology more of course "to understand better the a slogan reasons for otherwise intelligent than a politicians being addicted to unreality fair criticism of

teachers". Both may be amusing to those in the know, but they hardly set an example to the rest of us. Using celebrities to promote government policies

has become a tedious substitute for something new to say, often when an initiative is being announced for the second or third time. But in this case, role models are precisely what is required, because most people have yet to grasp what exactly is meant by lifelong learning.

Like the "learning society", lifelong learning is still more of a slogan than a reality. Is it a snappier term for adult education or something more closely associated with work?

If the concept is to have the impact desired by the Government it must, of course, be both. David Blunkett said last month: "Learning must be at the heart of our ambitions. I want to build a learning culture, starting, 0

> course. our children A culture in which lifelong learning becomes a reality for everyage. It is the key to our prosperity unlock their potential." Adult educa-

he voice

since grown the popular image of basket-weaving and flowerаттапging, although both still have a loyal constituency. The £9 million boost announced by the Government in October had more to do with cyber-cales and

tion has long

family learning schemes. The University for Industry should bring more learning activity to the workplace. The Sign Up Again cam-paign, which begins in earnest on Monday, is focusing particularly on men and the over-50s as groups under-represented in adult educa-

tion. A study commissioned for the campaign found that many men - especially those with few qualifica especially tions - thought that adult learning was for women. But, compared with other nations, particu-

larly Scandinavian, both sexes in Britain are quick to abandon fulltime education and reluctant to return in a parttime capacity. The Govern

ment is playing its part today with a £50 million piedge to develop a national advice and guidance service for adult learners. Baroness Blackstone said

that high-quality information was essential if people were to make the right choices of course and career. "We have," she added, "a clear vision of a learning society in which everyone routinely expects to learn and continually upgrade their skills."

An initial manifestation

of this commitment is the Learning Direct helpline on 0800-100 900, which has provided confidential advice to 400,000 people since its launch last February. Local networks will link to it, using a computerised database of courses.

EDUCATION

EASTER REVISION

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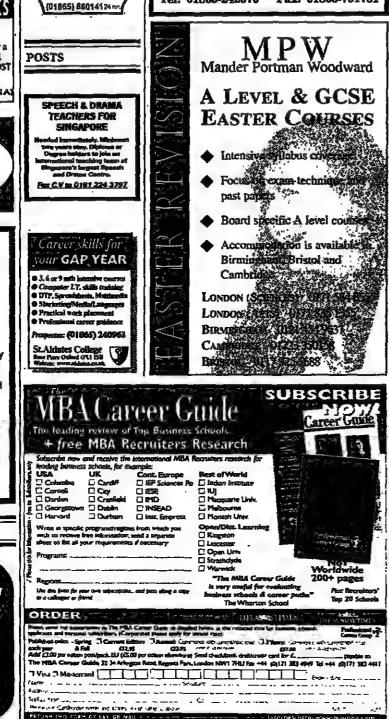
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Generation Soundbite

ven in these days of computer-gen-erated reports, some pupils proba-bly still encounter the traditional comments "Must concentrate more" and "Daydreams too much". But how far is that quality of concentration, the ability to focus the mind, valued today?
In our soundbite culture, politicians

will give a phrase sufficient spin to make it circle around the airwaves and newspaper headlines for just long enough and advertisers will present not just the jingle but the visual image or joke, so that we remember their product.

At school I have noticed that assemblies in chapel have moved away from the ten-minute "thought for the day" nug-get of finely honed prose, into an all-sing-ing, all-dancing presentation at which a videotape is invariably produced. Academic lessons are expected to be more theatrical. School inspectors and professional tutors all talk about pace, and not following the same activity for too long in short, arresting the attention of youngsters through variety.

We are used to ease now, and rightly so. The Internet has revolutionised the research process. Painstaking informationgathering is not always necessary: computers can do in seconds and minutes what used to take months. Parents will scream at me "But my children spend hours at the computer." True, but they will be more likely to put into practice the Pupils no longer have patient research and study skills, says Duncan Baxter

character of the magpie than the painstak-ing research skills of the scholar. They will be flicking between pieces of information on the Internet just as easily as they hop between TV channels. As parents and teachers in the age of the soundbite, can we really abdicate responsibility for the consequences for the way our chil-dren think? A beautifully constructed summary presupposes the writer has gone through an original text, has understood the argument and has proved it.

But even in some sixth-form subjects pupils do not have to write essays. Even the structure of an answer is given in some examination questions these days because an essay is a test or an investigation. The ability to argue a case, to see illogicality and plain untruth in someone else's argument, is a fundamental skill, which is why writing an essay and learn-ing the art of debate are two of the fundamental exercises of the mind. The length of examinations, too, in a modular system of assessment, militates against extended analysis and scholarly argument.

An exam lasting up to an hour and a half at A level does not allow enough time for developed answers. Having to rethink the whole concept of an essay has become the key imperative of the modular exami-nation. I cannot help but feel that if infor-mation is more easily obtainable and the old art of hunting facts is not so necessary, then what we ask students to do with this information should be more.

not less, rigorous than in the past.

Nowadays, I find myself advising exam candidates about how important it. is to become used to sitting in one place, as in an exam. I look with horror at pupils coming out of summer exams look-ing shattered because their bodies have not had the opportunity to move.

ecently, the clarion call from our politicians has been "standards, not structures". But structures (everything from how we teach to what we ask pupils to write and the length of time we give them for it have an impact on the ethos of what we are doing.

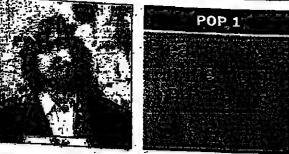
I rejoice that pupils have access to glo-bal information more quickly than I did, but parents and pupils have a harder time than ever in making students under-stand the need for patient and lengthy study. May examiners remember, however, the mental rigours behind true study. ● The author is Headmaster of Kingston Grammar School.

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THE

POP 2 Beth Orton: one to watch in 1999 PAGE 31



enneth Tynan, with typing swagger, once defined critics as people, who know drive the car. the way but can't drive the car". Well, it's a point of view - though I fear that if artists and performers started asking critics for directions the Car of Culture would be pranged into the Dirch of Debace before you could say "oh Calcutta".

But if a critic in the county of the calcuttar.

But if a critic isn't going to pre-tend to "know the way" on New Year's Day — especially at the start of this Year of Living Millennially — then he never will. So, as you wait for the ritual four aspirins to soothe the throb in your morningafter cranium, let me divert you with a little Janus-like reflection.

Two things strike me about the cultural revolution of the 1990s. The first is that it is a revolution. Satellite, cable, digital and now in-teractive television, the home computer and the Internet — all these have changed leisure habits irrevocably, especially among the un-der-30s. Sorting out the implica-tions will be the biggest task facing cultural mandarins and showbiz moguls alike in the next decade. That is, if they want to keep their jobs. Already you can sense the suddenly harnessed by inventors

We went through all this a century ago

panic and the fear as the big enterpanic aim the lear as the oig char-tainment corporations scramble frantically to "police" the Net. That's not surprising. To many people over 40 the page of this huge technological upheaval is bewidering. The silicon merry-go-round whirls ever faster, but what's it got to do with real life? And what will become of "real" culture — live music, fine books, good conversation

- when a little square screen de-fines our intellectual horizons? These are commonly expressed worries, So let me make a second, slightly more consoling point. The world has seen all this before. Indeed, there are curious parallels between the cultural mood of the

1990s and the 1890s. Consider this, In the 1890s, 100, ordinary lives underwent a bewildering technological metamorphosis. Much of it was due to electricity, which (like the Internet in our era) had been kicking around academic circles for years, but was of genius in ways that transformed day-to-day existence.

Electric cookers, toasters and kettles all appeared in the 1890s; the vacuum cleaner in 1901. Telephone subscriber dialling was invented in 1896: nine years later Britain had half a million telephones. Marconi sent a radio signal pinging across the Channel in 1898; and Ford built his first petrol-driven car in 1893. As Wordsworth might have writ-

ten, to be young in that decade must have been very heaven. But to be middle-aged must have been alarming, "Sir, I have tested your machine," Sir Herbert Bombolun wrote to the maker of another 1890s "fad", the gramophone. "It adds new terror to life and makes death a long-felt want."

So a hundred years ago we find much the same technological generation-gap as exists today. But there is an even more pertinent observation to be made about that the biggest entertainment industry decade: almost nobody came close in history within 15 years? Or how Marconi's cross-Channel bleeps to predicting the Big Bang in mass

IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON would bring. That wasn't for want of prophecy; after all, H.C.Wells wrote his best sci-fi yarns in the 1890s. But who could foresee how

the Lumière brothers' flickering experiments with moving pictures in a little Paris room would spawn

heard in a million homes at once? We stand in much the same rela-

tionship to computer science today as those late Victorians stood to electricity. We know we have a powerful new cultural tool, but we delude ourselves if we think we have even the foggiest notion of what wondrous new modes of expression it may spawn. All we can sense is that somewhere, perhaps not yet born, there is a genius who will shape this new medium into a form capable of stirring profound emotions — just as Hollywood's brilliant pioneers quickly evolved "truth 24 times a second" (in Jean-Luc Godani's phrase) out of the Lu-

mières' primitive shadow-play.

But what of the fear that the "living arts" will wither, as the homeentertainmen: revolution nurtures a generation of couch-nerds? Again, I take comfort from history. When cinema arrived, pessimists said it would kill live theatre; just

would lead, just two decades later, as the gramophone would kill live to symphonies and speeches being music. Similarly, television was expected to kill cinema. "Why should people pay good money to see bad films when they can see bad television for nothing?" Sam Goldwyn asked gloomily in 1950. Yet all survived. The truth is that

old art forms rarely die; they merely fade into repeat-mode. Original expression becomes harder and harder; the temptation to refer continually back to a heritage of proven masterpieces, like Orpheus fatally glancing back at Eurydice, becomes ever stronger.

ou can see this even in the art forms invented in our century. Last year's big films - a disaster movie and an epic cartoon - could easily have been conceived (if not executed) in Hollywood's earliest years. Television is still obsessed with gameshow, cop-drama and soap-opera formats concocaed in the Fifties. As for pop music, experts tell us every a brave new technological world.

week that it is "eating itself" - raiding its back-catalogue with rapa-cious haste. Little wonder, then, that youngsters are attracted to a medium with no burden of histori-

cal "baggage" — the computer.

Of course it is more difficult to evaluate the worth of a new medium, to distinguish gimmicks from the truly imaginative, Many will side with John Updike, who sourly observed that modern man is "conditioned to accept newness, whatever it costs". But the mark of civilised individuals is surely that they quickly reject novelty if it has no in-

tegrity of content or purpose.

That is as true today as it was for the Victorians, who also struggled to measure integrity in a fast-changing world. Back in 1869 Matthew Arnold declared that the chief task of culture was to "begat a dissatisfaction" with "the common tide of man's thoughts in a wealthy and industrial community", and to "save the future from being vulgarised, even if it cannot save the present". Notions of "vulgarity" have doubtless changed a bit since 1869. Even so, that's not a bad thought to carry into a new year, or

The voices Stalin couldn't gag

UNSUNG HEROES: In the last of

our series, Benedict Nightingale

salutes the courageous dissident

playwrights of the Soviet Union

rage on the theatre's behalf, may I suggest the following exercise? Read Isaac Babel's Marya, Nikolai Erdman's Suicide and Yevgheny Shvarts's Dragon. Then ponder the proceedings of the first Soviet Writers' Confer-ence in 1934. Then take an incredulous look at Nikolai Pogodin's Aristocrats, which was swiftly proclaimed the dramatic "classic" the other plays never had a chance of becoming. Thanks to the oppression of of silence". The loss is incalcuthe worst, the fate of the best was to be unsung cast out. even murdered.

For a few years after the Bolshevik ⁶ By 1934 coup the Russian theatre led the Stalin's world in energy innovation Handsome subsimighty combined with relative perrump had missiveness to give the ageing Stanis lavsky, the youngcrushed er Meyerhold and other producers

theatre? the opportunity to stage dramatists as diverse as Gorky and Mayakovsky, author of that fierce satire on greed and corruption in the Soviet state,

The Bedbug. But in the later 1920s the apparatchiks were already pow-erful enough to get Bulgakov's White Guard withdrawn, for the crime of protraying the class enemy as less than villainous, and his Flight banned And by 1934 Stalin's mighty rump had descended on the theatre, crushing all

originality, all creativity. That was when Uncle Joe's crony. Andrei Zhdanov. approvingly quoted his master's dictum that writers were "engineers of human souls", explaining that "socialist realism" must replace "bourgeois mysticism, superstition and pornography" and suggesting that the new heroes should be men and women collective farmers, engineers and mem-bers of the Young Communist League". It was also the year when Pogodin decided to treat a tricky subject: the building of the White Sea Canal by the inmates of what was, as it hapspens, one of Stalin's most notorious labour camps.

ever can there have been a more ideologically correct play than Aristocrats. Thanks to an abundance of food and recreation and the sensitivity of a com-mandant who combines the qualities of Scoutmaster, therapist and playgroup leader. hard cases confess their sins and become wild enthusiasts for progress, rushing off to dig their canal like kids building sandcastles.

Even supposed incorriga bles end up weeping with man-ly gratitude and tossing the principal Chekist in a blanket, while he dispenses useful morals: "The forces that have drawn these people into socialist work are operating with unheard-of daring, with true Bolshevik austerity, and on the

f you wish to feel serious broad scale Comrade Stalin has taught us."

in the real world, a rather muer Bolshevik austerity was already claiming its victims. Mayakovsky had shot himself, Gorky was soon to die in suspicious circumstances, Erd-man to be exiled, Bulgakov forced to take a menial job, Shvarts to camouflage his views. in fairy-stories. Meyerhold and Babel to be tortured and killed. Others embraced what Babel withly called "the genre lable in both the literal and the cliche sense. It is as if James I

> ly against the theatre as against tobac co and smothered Jacobean tragedy But there are three playwrights who in my view de-

had taken as strong

serve especially to be mourned three whose dramatic bequests, sadly few though they are, should be remembered and revived far more often than is now the case. What naive madness im

pelled Stanislavsky to ask Stalin to override his State Censorship Committee's ban on Erdman's Suicide? Given its sub versive tenor, it is hardly surprising that the dictator wrote back agreeing with those who found the play "empty and even harmful".

Its anti-hero, driven to the. brink of self-slaughter by the memployment and beset by malcontents chivvying him to kill himself as a public protest against their own disappointments, doesn't just phone the Kremlin to tell "him in charge" he hates Marx. He ends up begging the powers-that-be "in the name of millions the freedom to whisper. just whisper that life is hard". Back in 1979 an RSC production of the play showed it to be quirky, energetic and funny



Final gesture of despair: Roger Rees plays the central role in the Royal Shakespeare Company's 1980 production of Nikolai Erdman's play The Suicide

enough to justify Gorky's claim that Erdman was "our new Gogol", but in Russia it was as if it had never existed. The new Gogol disappeared into "a poky little hole of a room with a bunk and a tiny table" in the provinces and never wrote for the theatre again: Yet at least he survived into the 1970s, unlike the even more brilliantly gifted Babel, who was summarily executed

in 1940 after being arrested on charges of spying that IS years later the Soviet authorities themselves admitted to have

been trumped up. To understand Babel the lively, impractical, generous man, read Antonina Pirozhkova's At His Side, which is his widow's account of his last years and the decade she spent trying to discover whether he was alive or dead. And to

gauge the quality of the talent that was wasted, sample his plays Sundown and Marya. Both teem with offbeat observation, but the latter is indisputably a masterpiece, in which black-marketeers, prostitutes, drunken army officers and bewildered representatives of old and new orders giddily wander the chaotic Petrograd of 1920. You won 't be surprised to learn that the piece

was banned while it was in re-

hearsal in 1935. Shvarts was luckier. At least nobody stopped him writing his children's stories; at least he died a natural death in 1958. But his wonderfully inventive "children's plays for adults", The Naked King, The Shadow and The Dragon. were all taken off as soon as they were staged in trespectivewere well enough coded for the apparatchiks to believe that the despotic regimes they described were to be found in Nazi Germany or the West. Yet there must have been something about the opportunists and terrified toadles littering Shvarts's plots that made

the censors warv. They were right. To enter the sinister, paranoid world of The Shadow - the king's ministers find it safest to converse in stuttering half-sentences while pretending to play chess in the open air — is to experience the danger and unpredict-

nd The Dragon, in Lancelot which comes to rid a town of the reptilian tyrant, is even more suggestive. The citizens love their master as much as he despises them. As the monster says: "Cut a man's body in half and he'll peg out. But break his spirit and he'll eat out of your hand. In my town you'll find spirits without arms or legs, spirits in chains, threadbare spirits. dead spirits. I know because I've crippled them."

Even today The Dragon remains a touchy play in Russia. You can see why. It shows the awful success of Stalin's human engineering. It shows a slavishness, a craving for a Strong Man, so ingrained that ordinary political surgery cannot remove it. No wonder Shvarts died, as Erdman and Babel died, one of the unsung heroes of the century.

Another was the dying close

Their big sound was heard to best effect in the opening, which soared lyrically before delivering its sting. They were no less at home in the fraemented waltz of the Andantino, taking us into a world of shadowy nostalgia_

JOHN ALLISON

I flee through flaws, in the flu

eing busier than our counterparts in any Country 1 know, British theatre critics are apt to confuse the fictions flowing through they heads and start reviewing their dreams. But never was that more likely for me than this week, when flu

Did I really see dozens of little spiders fall from the ceiling above me with squeaks of We like you"? Yes, I did, when I caught Charlotte's Web at the Polica. Was I asleep when I was surrounded by kids repensively screeching "We're not scared" in a Lilliputian version of a Nutemberg rally? No, that happened at the Unicom Theatre's Hansel and Gretel at the Arts. Did I actually eat mince pies with Her Majesty on a sunbaked lawn at Balmoral? Sadly, that was the Mark you, Stuart Pater-.

son's version of Grimm felt far more dreamlike than that. Actually, it resembled the sort of leverish nightmare celebrated in a famous song in lolanthe. So much did he elaborate the simple if evocative tale of Hansel and Gretel, their wicked stepmother. their cowardly father, the witch and her oven that I would not have been shocked if W.S. Gilbert's ravenous horde of friends and relationshad come pouring aboard at Sloane Square or South Ken-

As it was, the lost children encountered the members of a small circus in the forest. And these supposedly friendly people led Hansel and Gretel to the wicked witch's cot

sington stations.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE!

tage. Why? After all, they do not perform interesting tricks or do anything funny. The answer is that the youngest of them have done a deal with Faith Tingle's pouring, lisping and thoroughly satisfactory hag to replace the circus strongman, who is their father and her prisoner, with more appetising flesh. But that is not the evening's

only gratuitous complication. The King of the Fairies is also obsessively pacing the forest in search of his son, who released the witch from her prison when she cried in agony to him and has in turn been incarcerated by her. The show's inadvertent moral is: don't be nice to strangers who seem

kind or appear to be in trou-

A more advertent theme is the search for the father, who emerges from his three incarnations here as a well-meaning but helpless figure, much victimised by nasty women in

But does this clarify or obfuscate a good Grimm tale? Perhaps because they were clearer-minded than me, the children in the audience seemed happy; but I found the piece almost as cluttered as the set, which inexplicably consists of piles of books, and even more so than the face of Andrew McDonald's Fairy King, which is so festooned with blackening leaves that it looks as if he has developed

Dutch Elm Disease. Joseph Robinette version of E.B. White's Charlotte's Web saved from the knackers by a wily spider of lacking imagination. It is, I suppose, a bit cute, although Neil Smye's pink, porcine Wilbur is perky enough for that not to matter. It is also a mite didactic, although not in the way one would expect nowadays, since White takes a true carnivore's relish in confronting the tots with the reality of a food-chain that extends to Ol-

makes a much more lucid, ac-

cessible evening. Nor can you

accuse a play about a piglet

ivia Carruthers's mild Charlone: "I eat flies. I drink their blood. It's the way I'm made." Overall, a tribute to pigs and arachnids that should appeal to people too.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Youth comes to the rescue

A complete change in the Wigmore Hall's penultimate concert of 1998, nobody in the audience can have felt let down by the replacement: stepping in for the Brindisi Quartet, the Sorrel Quartet gave a performance to sweep away old year gloom.

Counted among this country's finest young ensembles, the Sorrels — Gina McCor-mack, Catherine Yates, Vicci Wardman and Helen Thather are no strangers to the Wigmore Hall, but the opportunity to hear them in masterpieces of the repertory by Haydn, Shostakovich and Dvorák was very welcome.

Their bright tone showed itself right from the buoyant opening of Haydn's Quartet in G major, Op 33 No 5, played with soaring freedom and

RECITAL

Sorrel Quartet Wigmore Half

high spirits. So did the sonorous warmth that distinguishes most of their performances: all the detail Haydn packed into the first movement sounded very alive, and if intonation was sometimes less than perfect, that seemed a small price to pay for an interpretation that revelled in the work's surprising twists and turns. This was an account that revealed the Baroque roots of Haydn's Classicism, as well as pointing towards a more assertive Ro manticism. The Scherzo was

striking for its muscularity. Dvorák's American Quartet is his most popular chamber work, a smallscale equivalent of the New World Symphony and about as American; apart from some pentatonic tunes, it owes everything to the composer's homesickness for his native Bohemia.

That sense of yearning domiance, from the unfettered beauty of the first movement to the dance rhythms of the finale. These are players who listen and react to one another, and from the moment that Wardman's dusky viola announced the initial theme and passed it over to McCormack's sweettoned first violin it was clear that this was going to be a real conversation in music. The impassioned outpouring of their slow movement was one of the evening's highlights.

of Shostakovich's Fourth Quartet, magnificently judged after the edgy desolation of the work's climax. Indeed, this darkly ambiguous piece was a well-chosen foil to the otherwise upbeat programme: written in 1949, a bad year even by Stalin's standards, it is a score that not all players get inside as well as these did here.

r-депени. 2019 (0171–494 5041).

QUATRE MAINS: Astomshing dance for hands created by Andrew Dowson, creator of Thuriderbirds FAB and Jozef Houben, director for The Dark Communication

CHICAGO: Maria Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about murder and ficide fame. Adelphi (0171-344 0059), [5]

THE GOLEM: David Burt and Gaye Rosen star in Sylvia Freedman and

monster who runs amok. New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022).

JESUS MY BOY: Tom Contrat John Downe's fitfully amusing comedy giving Joseph's side of the story, Apollo, W1 (0171-494 5070).

PETER PAN: Justin Salinger in the ade role, with David Troughton as Captern Hook, in the return of Fiona

THE SNOWMAN: The much loved

Raymond Briggs characters soar over the audience in Bill Alexander's joylul production. Peacock, WC2 (0171-863 8222).

THE KING AND I. Whistle a happy

LATE NITE CATECHISM: Maripat Donovan plays the unnerving Sister in her American cornectly hit, co-written with Vicki Quade, cowing

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: Yorn Goodman-Hill and

Dominic Rowan play the estranged Inends in Edward Hall's pleasing RSC

actory production of the feet odders and Hammerstein ma

BAC (0171-223 2223). (5)

the audience with old-time Jermyn Street (0171-287 2875)

NEW RELEASES

THE ACID HOUSE (18): Three darkly

Indigestible onslaught. With Stephen McCole, Ewen Bremner, and Kewn

comic tales of drugs, drink and hallucination by Irvine Weish. An

Laird's enjoyable production. Oilbrier, SE1 (0171-452 3000).

Brown star in Sylvia Freedman Cathy Shostak's uplifting new musical about the man-made

WEST END SHOWS Jeremy Kingstog's choice of theatre showing in London

> ARABIAN NIGHTS: At Baba, Sinbad and lesswikmown tales adapted an directed by Dominic Cooke for the Christmas show. Young Vic (0171-928 6363). CINDERELLA: Neil Bartlett and The Shockheaded Paler Isam stage a seriously wonderful version of Angela

Lyric (0181-741 8701/2811).

THE BEST OF TIMES: The Bride Theatre's programme of local

LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS: Denis Lawson directs Ewan McGregor in David Hallwell' celebrated student fancist play. Hampstead (0171-722 9301). (3)

INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's nightmensh take on favourite fairytales, John Crowley directs the

ner musical. mmar (0171-369 1732). 🖺

THE INVENTION OF LOVE: John Wood plays the aged A.E. Housman tritiang its early self in Tom Stoppard's gittering play. West End transfer for Richard Byre's production. Theorem Benefit Manufact (MAT) 200

AMADEUS: David Suchet plays Selveri with Michael Sheen as Mozart

WEST SIDE STORY: Alan Johnson's

stylich revival of Leonard Bernstein's classic is a trumph of clatter and testosterone over the timetess Marhattan barney between the Jets and the Sharks. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

ANNIE: A musical by Strouge/Charme

to hig at your heartstrings while plays looned times on them. Lify Savage is the dastardly orphanage wardress. With News Colson and Charlene

in Peter Hall's strongly cast production of the Shaffer play, Old Vic (0171-928 7618).

ARTS

JAZZ ALBUMS

Chestnut purée

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair takes a long, cool look at the Greatest Hits compilations of the year

The biggest of the Best of 10 year Value of the Christmas No I album.

mas No I album. and the album chart is generally spared the influx of novelty items that invade the singles chart at this time of year.

But the album world never theless has its own seasonal cross to bear, namely the proliferation of Greatest Hits collections. Last year produced a raft of retrospectives by artists as diverse as James, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Mariah Carey, Paul Weller, Julio Ig-lesias. Culture Club, Duran Duran, the Levellers and Dire Straits. But out at the front of a crowded field were four blockbuster albums, every one of which sold comfortably in excess of the biggest-selling Greatest Hits compilation of 1997 (by Eternal).

GEORGE MICHAEL Ladies & Gentlemen -

The Best of (Epic 491705; two discs, £17.99) Released: Nov 9. Highest chart position: No 1. Number of Top 20 hits: 19. UK sales to Christmas: 1,200,000

IN 1997 The Best Of Wham! was one of the top-selling compilation albums, but George Michael dwarfed that achievement in 1998 with Ladies & Gentlemen. A double-album featuring all his hits as a solo act — with the unexplained exception of Monkey - it achieved a stranglehold on the top of the chart throughout the last seven weeks of 1998, repulsing challenges by Robbie Williams, the Corrs and others. More than just a collection of songs, it has become, like

Simply Red's Stars before it, a

1990s lifestyle accessory. The album's title and, it sometimes seemed, its entire publicity campaign, was inspired by the singer's brush with a law-enforcement officer in a Californian public lavatory, an encounter which left his stock curiously enhanced everywhere in the world except America. Chewing over the incident with Michael Parkinson, the singer volunteered the thought that "It's the things that are missing that make

you a star, not the things that you have." What is missing from Michael's music is a sense of spontaneity, particularly on dominate on Disc One (subtitled For the Heart), where his sibilant singing style is manicured to cerie perfection. Disc. Two tFor the Feeth is livelier but, apart from the louche lyrics, Ladies & Gentlemen showcases a catalogue of songs which conform to the most con-

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

servative of pop traditions, am-

ple confirmation that under-



Funny old game, pop: George Michael came out in spectacular fashion, and brought out Ladies & Gentlemen, a Best of album that sold shed-loads

Although they were always

prone to the odd pompous

flourish — Bono's yell at the start of New Years Day is a

spectacular toe-curler - this

remains an outstanding body

of work by any standards. Brimful of beauty, wit and an

evangelical passion, songs such as Pride (in the Name of Love), With or Without You

and When Love Comes to

Town have passed the test of time with flying colours.

neath that peculiar configuration of facial hair, Michael is really an unbuttoned version of Cliff Richard.

PHIL COLLINS

(Virgin V2870, £14.49) Released: Oct 5. Highest chart position: No l. Number of Top 20 bits: 15. UK sales to Christmas: 900.000

REELING from the conspicuously poor sales of his 1996 alburn, Dance into the Light, Phil Collins needed a reliable banker to stabilise a solo career that seemed to have gone seriously off the rails. Hits did the trick with room to spare, and whatever you may think of Collins's unpretentious pop fare, this album is an impressive monument to a recorded legacy that has always been

depth of material. Perhaps ominously, the only song out of the album's 16 tracks not to reach the Top 20 edition" double-album which

was True Colors, the one new included a disc comprised of B-Sides (exactly how "limited" is not specified, but the quantisingle he released this year. As is often the case with such colty already in circulation is greater than the 300,000 coplections, it looks as if Hits may have drawn a bold line underneath Collins's best years. ies required to qualify for a

The Best Of 1980-1990 (Island 524612; two discs, E17.99) Released: Nov 2. Highest chart position: No I. Number of Top 20 hits: 11. UK sales to Christmas: 900,000

HAVING negotiated a deal that Croesus would have envied to allow their record company to release a compilation of their hits, U2 took a typically unusual approach to the project, selecting a ten-year timeframe and effectively issuing two editions of The Best of single-disc version incorporating all the hits from that era, they also released a "limited

M PEOPLE The Best Of (BMG 74321 61387, £14.49) Released: Nov 2 Highest of Top 20 hits: 11. UK sales to Christmas: 800,000

platinum disci.

THE only act in this select company to have enjoyed success exclusively in the 1990s, M People have harnessed aspirational lyrics to a modern disco beat with consistently enchanting results, cornering a market that used to be the preserve of Level 42. Heather Small's husky voice sounds even more delectable than you remember on a run of giltedged hits including Search for the Hero, Moving on Up and One Night in Heaven.

Roasting on an open-minded fire

CYRUS CHESTNUT Cyrus Chestnut (Atlantic 7567-83140-2)

BETTY CARTER may have been jazz's most grievous loss of 1998. But her spirit — if this excellent album and an earlier release by another of her former piano players, Stephen Scott, are anything to go by lives on in the work produced by her former band members.

She demanded not only whip-smart reactions and musical discipline, but also sensitivity and imagination from her sidemen, and all these qualities are apparent on this, Cyrus Chesmurs mira album as a leader. His playing has discernible roots in blues, stride and gospel, and he is versatile enough to operate with equal facility in lyrical/hymnic or rollicking mode. But he is a team player, as his easy meshing with contrasting saxophonists Joe Lovano and

James Carter proves. With faultless rhythm-section work from bassist Ron Carter and drummers Billy Higgins and Lewis Nash, and two attractively languorous vocal appearances from Anita Baker, this is an unequivocally enjoyable album.

JAZZ ALBUMS

PAUL ROGERS QUARTET Time of Brightness (Rare Music RM027) THE Paul Rogers Quartet, in

addition to its bass-playing leader/composer, comprises saxophonist Paul Dunmall, drummer Tony Levin and pianist Sophia Domancich. The three men are members of the superb improvising quartet. Mujician, and the freer passages in Rogers's impassioned music share much of that band's interactive intensity.

Kogers and Dummall, however, are also regular pariners in a duo playing folk music. and the themes sparking off the album's two states contain enough of that form's bright fluency to provide a balance to the energy of the band's free improvisation. Domancich brings telling dynamic and textural variety to the quartet's music, making the album a serious rival to recent issues from UK sextet Dreamtime and American saxophonist David S. Ware as improvised jazz recording of 1998.

CHRIS PARKER

10

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG): Painck Slevian's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a psecebble race who have found the elicific of youth Lightly Breable With Donna Murphy, F. Murray Abraham. Director, Jonathan Frakes TWILIGHT (15) Down-at-heal private THE NEGOTIATOR (15): Police hostage negotiator trives hostages himel to prove his innocence. ENEMY OF THE STATE (15); WE

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Goott Brown's chalge of the least movies

Smith's lewyer tumbles unwittingly upon a political conspiracy. Excling Heckmen and Jon Vorght Director,

THE NRGHTY (PG): Endearing tale of two outcast children, one hulling, the other crippled, who pool their resources Peter Chelson directs Sharon Stone, Kleran Cultar and Elden

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15): Robin Williams wedes through the stierfile trying to find his loved ones Technically deziting, but restotaged by a woolly acrost With Annabella Sciena, Cuba Gooding ir and Max Von Sydow THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U):

Splendid animation, but there's not much for leddles in the bullcal story of much for vegoes in the bedoes story of Mosel leading the braienes to the promised land. Voice talents include Val Klimer and Ralph Remes. The directors are Brenda Chapman, Sleve Hickner and Smon Wells BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U):

Everyone's lavounce taking pig faces the forments of the florate city Grotesque, insignated sequel to the hit film With Magda Szubanski Director, DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG): RUSH HOUR (15): LA and Hong

Kong cops join forces on a kidnap case. Flouting lare, enliversed by Asi legend Jacker Chan and motormout come Chris Tucker Director, Brett

eye (Paul Newman) is fured into a murdar mystery, inconsequential pi but a wonderful cast. With Gene Hariamen, Sutan Sarandon, James

Overblown suspense thater, with Samel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey.

OUT OF SIGHT (15): Escaped convict George Clooney linds himself falling for the facteral marrial (Jennéer Lopez) on he tal. Dazzling, Inventive version of Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, BLADE (18): Extravogent, jumbled horror landsay, fun for a brie, with action here from the pages of Marvel Comics, With Stephen Dorff Director,

Stephen Norlington. MY NAME IS JOE (15): Pelorme Glasgow alcoholic begins en awk romanos with a healthcare worker

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG): Jrn Carrey discovers that his whole the has been caught on camera for TV Meticulous and intelligent satire,

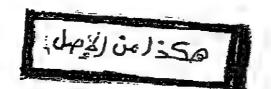
ELIZABETH (15): Cate Blanchett is

TOP TEN ALBUMS

L	(II)	Ladies & Cottlemos - the Best of	Georgie Michael (Epic)
	(2)	I've Boar Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysells)
3	(3)	Where We Belong	Boyzone (Polydor)
ı	(4)	Talk on Corners	Coms (Attentic)
5	(7)	Step One	Steps (five)
Ė	(5)	The Best of	
7	(8)	The Best of 1985-1990	U2 (Island)
B	(10)	B*witched	
3	(12)	Ray of Light	
g.	(9)	One Hight Only	Bee Gees (Polydor)

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Starting PHALIP SCHOOLD PHALIP SCHOOLD THIS IS A SUPE-PIE HT INV FURE PLEASURE that the Book, mask it lysts by Leate Brissies Directed by General by General Control Too Sat 7:30, Mass Wed, Sat 2:30 Cell E.D. for Young part details MATCENTLY FEMORY JULIA *RITHY 8 works only from 20 July By Sental Brecisi in a new version by Lee Hal THE WOMAN IN BLACK The Buckly Holly Story 1970 LIAST State *BUDDY* HOURS OF COMIC BUSS" D.TH Actigned by Singham Ministrati "The stook thrilling seek challing play for years" (1.16a) Mon-See B.O.), Main Ton S.O.T & Sat 4.00 ebrumy THE MUSICAL CHITCHION 309 1737/244 4444 HAARIOUS 344 GREAT YEAR THE REDUCED *Harlously untertaining_the furnity except of a Brackt play I have set each "S.Torsee "brack-black floorischill Gdn "BLSSFILLY FUNY" D.Tel MICOLA PRIMITION OF STA SANOY THEATHE DIT! 836 8888 CE 017! 344 4444/20 0000 SHAME RICHE *BOOCKE NICKETS* CLARKE PETERS LYCEUM - LONDON 0879 606 3476 SHAKESPEARE COMPANY Set 5 & 8.50 Surdays AUDpm. 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"AMAJEUS" Torting Transfeative Wolf BY PETER SCHAFTER Highy Transfeat is expertly descated by PETER HALL Got Sprin Tinglary Ind On Son CONCORNER MISH OUT OUTHeating E.Sid Sandotting On EVERTONER MISH GOT Note Press Man-Spit 7-20 Mats Weed 2.50, Sec 2.00 PANE NATIONALLE 0171 Mas 9987 0171 344 4444 ALISON STEADMAN ALDWYCH 0171 416 8000 cc 0171 857 AN INSPECTOR CALLS ACUMENT OF 11 IN BASE OF 1171 415 6005413 321 BRIGARDS FANCOURTE BUSIC No Matter What - Winner TTV Record of the Year Award 1988 "Loyd Webber's best show alone Pleastor? D.Tel ULTITORY & DOTAN TOTAL STATES THE SMASH HET MUSICAL Even B.O.O. Photogo 5-30 & B.30, Sans 4.00 & B.O.O. Ties C15-230 Fri B.30 Tieste Half Price. 24 HOUR HOTLINE Tue-Fri Born Set Spec & Born Every Sun 3pec & Spec Construes peris Mon 28 Dec-ITHA BOND 0870 \$422225 Tichet (35cs 0171 863 8000 SMICY THEATRE BO 0171 240 1966 THE MEMORY OF WATER othert Lindwy in galancing food Med The Royal Statespeere Company production of RICHARD III Too't, Toes 7.00 DOMINION 0171 855 1885/0171 344 444/0171 420 0000/big lee/Grps (12+) 0171 416 62850171 420 0000 ... BEST MEN MILESCAL. OLIVIER MILESCAL. DENNEY MILESCAL DESCALLY AND THE BRAST MILESCAL ST MILESCAL ST MILESCAL ST MILESCAL By Shaingh Stephesson Otracted by Terry Johnson Press 7 Jan. 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PALACE THEATRE OUT 434 090 THEATRES BIT! 416 BUSQUAM AMARIE 17000 THE SEASON'S SENSATION The Royal Malicoal Theorie Producti WEST SIDE STORY THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mate 230 *ANNTR* "This is one of the most exchange materials for over seen" John Peter ST Engs Tues-Set 7.30 Mans Weel & Set 2.50 SPECIAL 4PM SUNDAY PERF ECTPA SUIT DEC 21 No Peri Jan 1, No Eng Peri Dec 31 IS A HULLIARY MUSICAL TABLE Even 7.45, Met Thurs & Sal 2.00 Transfers to the Prices of White Transfer from January 18 SOOTY AND CO AMORATKO ALARMS LES MISERABLES Ticloris 218.90 - 235.00 UNITATIONAL THE WHIT A BEASTIPAL EVENIUS Daily Mall, Guardien, Tean Independent, etc. From 21 Amount ACR TO VENEUR CREAT Unif Jan 9, 2 West, Daily. 15 55 210 NOW IN ITS 14TH RECORD BREAKING YEAR EAST 7.30 Mars The A Set 2.30 HILAROUS COMENY STAM OF BY MICHAEL BLAKENOFE PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 0570 8401111/0171 344 4444 Bessy Anderson & Bjorn Uhrsen MAMMA MIAI WYTEDHAMES 369 1736/344 4444 INTO THE WOODS THE TONY AWARD HEST PLAY 1907 OLIVIER AWARD BEST COME 1905 STANDARD MINISTE ART ENTERTAINMENTS To advantus in this section Tel: 0171 690 6222 Fee: 0171 782 7830 GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE FOR THURSTAY MATRICE & Limber your of seets stuff duly from SLO, for any performances Hon-Sat 7,45 Mats Thur & Sat 3pm Mask & lyrics by STEPHEN SOUTHERN Book by JAMES LAPTHE Mon-Set 7.30, Wed & Sat Made 2.30 KRAPPS LAST TAPE A new explicit based on the songs of ASBA Performances begin 23 March HAYMARKET 0171 SID 8800 D171 344 4444 (Dig tee) JOHN NOOD In The Royal Material Thesite Production TOM STOPPARD'S THE INVENTION OF LOVE by Samuel Beckets "a riveling production" D.Tel "extraordingry" NY Times LYRIC 077) 494 5045 or 8771 344 4444 Sunnamin York Oliver Colors Studied Todd OSAF WILDES CLASSIC COMEDY AN IDEAL HUSBANID UREOF HID GLOROUS Stom Bres 7.45, Main Wed 3 2 8s 4 Lateranness and extended and the internal A near play by Yesteins Testes by Chalatopher He LARRY LANS THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INCLINY CUEEN'S THEATRE: 0171 484 5040 AGATHA CHRISTES Mon-Set Spro, Fri & Set reat 5.30pm S CC (big fee) 267 7 days 0171 484 E000(344 4444420 0000 Grps 494 PIRATES OF PENZANCE TRANSMITTED No. 10 Mar. TODAY of 2.50, TOMOFFOW at 2.50 2.750 UNTIL 9 January Par 5 Wester Only Paymont Stope THE SNOWMAN 54544413 3311,0870 841 0841 MISS SAIGON MBRIDGE 494 5080/416 8080/344 /420 0000 (+big forj@cpo 494 5454 416 6075/412 8321/406 6888 Directed by Richard Eggs BEST PLAY Eve Std Austral SRITISH THEATTE AT DIR FINESTY Sunday Times Tues-Sit 7.30 Wed & Sat Matte 2.20 THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF GREASE OUR TIME! HOW IN IT'S 6TH SENSATIONAL YEAR THE MOUSIN HE D. Minor Mon-Sat 7,20pm, Wed & Sat Mat 3pm "It dotect come weigh better at Christmar Guardian BREATHTHOUGHS YEAR Even 7.45 Mais Wed & Sat 3gm Good weeks avail for Wed Mail OYAL SHAKESPEARE To advertise in The Times UNTIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 Todays Paris 230pm & 730pm 452 5000 Grps 0171 452 5010 24tr oc bkg fae 6171 420 0000 OLIVER Tont 7.15, Tomor 2.00 HER WAJESTY'S 20v 454 5000 STRATFORD 01789 295823/ · theatre listings please call our BOOKING TO THE MILLENGINE & scott parts - kepty B.O. 6500044 4444420 (00)0066 494 54544418 3311,4436 528 0541 54 051 THE LICH, THE WITCH AND THE MARDRIGGE TOTA 7.15, IOTHOR 2.30 & 7.15 SWEEL A. MONTH BIT THE COUNTRY TOTA 7.50 & HOHOT 1.30 TROULDS AND CRESSEDA TOTAC 7.30 LICHOON 0771 658 88901 RATIOSET THE TEMPENT THAT DOCHESS OFFT CAPOLINE SELENDA LANS CAPOLINE "WEEK! 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PP PREDICTIONS Like heroes of 1999

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POP GIG

Deadpan joy of New Order

How was '9 for you?

Theop artists of the year are already working on thelbums that will make our lives that bit better

hat does 1999 look like? It looks like this a depressed woman who escles Pippi Long-stocking! han who's locked himself in the vanits of an old bank is trying to scare us to least band that refuses to do erviews and will only be riographed wear-ing haskind crowns! And Oast Yebasis!

Narly of the Britpop be-heroths have albums out this ear. it's sixth album is being presed by the eight-minute lo Tender, which alreac, sous like a Single of the rear spergrass are re-leasing we will probably be thei last turn, as they now appar toate each others' gut Andasis are back in theing ad given that Noel Gatagheus recently admit-ted that Here Now was crp., moe the new album war be. I then, as Noel has aparentallowed Liam to wite a cole of the tracks, mybe thworld isn't quite redy for fe is Like a Fried for Sangh and Eng.

Eg Sandh and Eh? here aseveral other contenlers - side from Liam. Yoive Been My Band, or whitever el calls it - for po-tenal alins of 1999. Pippi Lonstock alike Beth Orton : a bij a rogue entry. Although heliuffly acoustic de-but PraisPark, picked up a 1997 Mery Music Prize normatic and earned her the obriet Queen of the Comdowone wouldn't automatiellyave her down as the na riion billion seller.



MORAN

she's had her heart smashed into brittle rubble and the result, on the forthcoming Central Reservation, is an album of black coffee and pre-dawn helplessness that should replace Portishead's Partishead at the top of the Everybody Loves This Album list:

This year also sees the re-lease of The Beta Band's first proper album. These are the guys who refuse to do interviews and wear paper masks and crowns in their photo-shoots. Even though I work with words and everything. it's quite hard to describe exact-ly what it is they do — one gets the idea that they are all into wildly obscure prog-funk vi-nyl and gain some kind of nourishment from the sound of foaming bongos. But they have just got it, the It which has your spine wrapping itself around your skull like a rollerblind and makes the very tips

of your fingers feel numb.
The Aphex Twin bought a
bank last year. It's in the City
of London, and the walls of the vaults are so thick he can blow the cones on his speakers while, above him, the City dwindles and roars through

The Aphex Twin - or Richard James, as the estate agent would no doubt have addressed him, because it's his real name—is a law unto him-self. If we imagine the music industry as the United King-dom, then the Aphex Twin is the Isle of Man: they do things differently there. He grows a small ginger beard, yet he is a genius. He releases albums as and when he pleases, yer they are not self-indulgent whale-meat. He's been described as the Techno Mozart, but he's really the Nineties Kraftwerk. crafting elegant, spacious songs with symphonic beats. More importantly than that, however, he's the only currently operating artist who's try-ing to scare his fans to death.

he video for Come to Daddy, which depicted a world of feral-children, all with James's face, was a storming effort; but it's the current Aphex Twin calendar that will see off anyone with cardiac arrbythmia and/or psychiatric problems. The entry for June is so disturbingly evil — it's James with 36C breasts, in a white bikini, with a bloodied crotch and the face of a goblin—that half his fanbase will be on medication before the year's out. Happily, he has an album out in the summer.

Although in some ways dis-similar from the Aphex Twin — he doesn't look as if he lives inside bedges and will grab you with his gnarled feet and drag you down into Hell — Stephen Duffy also eschews the sterile environment of the studio for something a bit



Will the tallest woman in pop soon become the biggest? This could be the year Beth Orton is handed the palm

more vibey. He re-formed his old band, the Lilac Time, blew his recording advance on mending the roof of his brother's barn, and then recorded a forthcoming, still-untitled alburn of blissy dusk-pop in it. It's worth noting that while

Nick Drake has recently become the hippest name to drop, Stephen Duffy named his band after a Nick Drake lyric in 1987, when everyone was into Glen Medeiros and stone-washed jeans, and has

been continuing Drake's lega-

cy of stoned autumnal reverie ever since.

And of course, after a fiveyear wait, both Elastica and Stereo MC's are supposed to be releasing their eagerly awaited albums this year. However, as they've both been

put back more times than the completion date of the Jubilee Line extension and are starting to be classed in encyclopaedias along with unicorns, gryphons and the citizens of At-lantis, don't start queueing at HMV just yet.

Ragged royalty

MOST pundits believed that New Order had disappeared for good after dissolving acrimoniously in the wake of their 1993 album, Republic. But having reconvened with great success at this summer's Reading Festival, the deadpan quartet headlined two giant festive shows. The first took place at Manchester's Evening News Arena on Tuesday, the second last night at London's Alexan-dra Palace.

In Manchester, with typically perverse logic, New Order delivered a set which owed far more to their doomy postpunk roots than their more recently acknowledged status as

LIVE GIG

the godfathers of British techno. As at Reading, they dusted down several stark classics from their previous incarna-tion as Joy Division, notably the spectral rumble of Atmosphere and a somewhat ragged renditon of Love Will Tear Us

Even more polished tunes whose studio blueprints are sleek disco projectiles, such as Touched by the Hand of God and Bizarre Love Triangle, were buried beneath the din of Bernard Sumner's scouring guitar and Peter Hook's truculent bass. Indeed, this was probably their most dissonant and wilfully amateurish show for at least a decade, with Sumner botching lines and miss-ing notes in almost every

But there were also moments of sublime pop brilliance. The majestic Regret withstood Sumner's careless manhandling with ease, as did an anthemically expanded re-working of True Faith. However shambolic their delivery may have been. New Order's tireless energy could not be faulted. And however weary they may be of wheeling out such pop landmarks as Blue Monday, they still invested it with passion and grit.

STEPHEN DALTON

I Some Ps secretly followta: Inch (6.7). 8 Thy aditionally stick to

Bu On has spent her two yar abbatical wisely:

dor-door deliveries (7,6) 15 Glor about one's son beguight? (9) 16 Cregiven sack, having

revel growth (9)

17 Doj people having old statestored (7)

18 Ashsaid, it was cruel to coisite herbal drug for peoil use (2,5,2,5,3,4,4,2)

19 Corg at home, pers put

oud (5).
21 Ladd endlessly, getting on hat maybe in folksy gazing (10).
22 Specification number the Frelegarded as illiterate

24 Trabroadcast about com house (7) 25 Obranist is hard to

cret affirst (6) 27 Thostion of the men on

thoad (12) 31 Of coked in batter git stik about it? (11)
33 Winness with top player att aricle ... (7)

35 . Aut on again, coerning disputed point

37 St an order for port (6) 38 Lellingwith celebrity aht it, bllowing protest

erance (9) 43 Stial skill required in

nchant shipping? (10) 44 T-flight accumodation?

47 C assisting omeback in very, locally 7)
48 Pring along, setting in the

sae boat (7)
49 Gtrary to expectation, not lily to be discovered? (8-3) 50 Ruesting a quite, after irvidual performances

53 Aerican actor nd English anor coming rund (6)
55 Lig deliveries : striker's imded to miss(7) 57 Imake arrangments for lers to be sento the press

59 Ad to see my rturn as a sger? (5,5) 61 Jahless charact?

(rtainly not on to gumble about (6) b tired quoting thakespeare— his first rample is wortheing warded nothing

6Geard someonegullible ffered help (7) 67ne's very shorswith derly relative trangely mote (9) 68ather the gistand give a

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The state of the s

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es (2)

h back (9) 69:cond mischie-maker met ipears smug 1-9)
700 some uneathing, given al not at firsimpartial

DOWN. 1 Made comfortable, with first. of drugs injected (7).

2. Jenny: maybe, finally ducking out of tryst in the offing? (13)

Give one's view of love, and suffer grief (5)

4 Mansion a lord watches being demolished (6,6)

5 Type of butter nanny

prefers (5-4) 6 Lack sound reasons, unable

to go out on a limb? (3,4,1,3,2,5,2) 7 Nicholas's wife was a star

in variety (7) 8 Put off letters — new US writer's coming round (8)
9 Beginning to suffer, going mad with a rash? (6) 10 You've to take into

consideration if you've to make this phural (9)

11 Local species may be unsettled, yet cope (7)

12. I'll put up with a great deal over a long period, given a rise (0)

rise (9) 13 Various translations of a work of Ovid? (13) 14 Hang the outlay, hosting

American! (7)
20 Experimenting with light dye, I'll try to make improvements (4.3,4)
23 Nurse likely to be censured

(1) Nurse likely to be censured set ward in uproar — try to exploit that? (4.2,8,6):

39 Gd ingedient for cooking tu, sole in obster (9)

41 Bharmag, making eance (9)

24 interior, the some a across:
(6-5)
26 One may start off this
month with duty list soldier
put up (10)
28 Despot's given truly
heartless firade (6)
29 For soldiers, order current

type of coat (7,4)
30 Think carefully, and take up occupation again? (10)
32 Unemotional type neglecting new, pleasant

composer (7)
34 Miserable, having benefit completely cut off (7)
36 One has Doric construction

Solid (11)

40 Plain case I lost (6)

42 Possibly comparable? It initially looks questionable

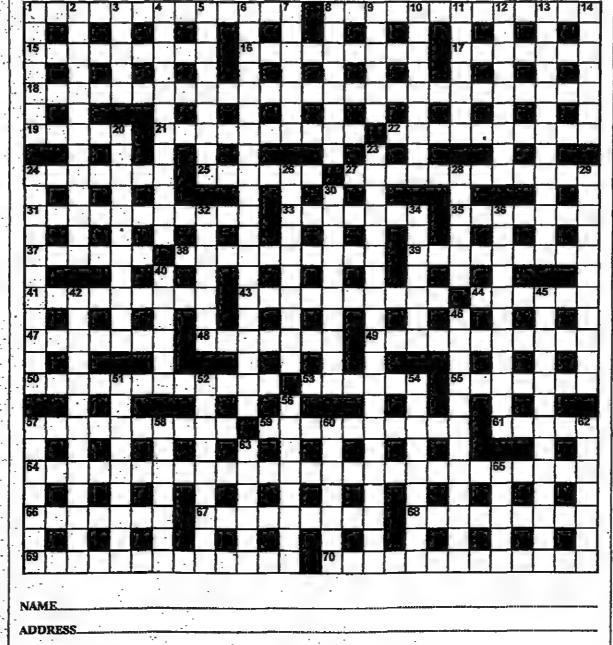
45 I extol golfer's versatility one may relieve tension (13)
46 Personal form of expression that's unheard of (4.8)
51 They offer recipe for success with a course (9)
52 Suspended methods to catch decay left in teeth (9)
54 Has dinner prepared for supreme council (9)
56 Start work again in Police Dept. — that's taken for granted (8)

granted (8)
57 Strong support for parts of an estate (7)

58 Succeed in acquiring property (7)
60 Was deserving of ceremony at sea? (7)

62 Upset one gent I'd fired (7) 63 Lord — a fellow that's first class (6) 65 Change prevalent in India

In our New Year Jumbo Crossword competition, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the first correct solution opened on Thursday, January 21, 1999. Entries to Bank Holiday Jumbo (203), Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, January 23



POSTCODE.

Times Two New Year Jumbo

There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, January II

1 V Hugo book; a musical (3,10) 8 Study of community

relationships (6,7) 15 Queen's N American subjects (9)

16 Returning missile 17 Attack (7)

18 "Poetry —" (Robert Frost) (2,4,4,4,2,11)

19 A nocturnal lizard 21 All those who see

newspaper (10) 22 Home-made pot, rug. etc (10)

24 Support oneself (on) (7) 25 Thinly scattered (6)

27 The Magi (5,4,3) 31 Impossible to transfer (11)

33 Prayer, its bell (7) 35 Rank; a mil. formation (7) 37 Element 1 (6) 38 Oboe family

instrument (3,7) 39 Lay down again (9) 41 Deceiving; lashing (bowsprit) (9)

43 Position where view taken (10) 44 Quirk (6) 47 A green/yellow bunting (7)

48 Girl's name; her seat (anag.) (7) 49 Degree of heat (11) 50 Science of disease treatment (12) 53 Scattered about (6)

57 Bad-weather-

55 Workers at keyboard

protection entrances 59 Students of China

61 Damage: excavated waste (5)

64 To fail to spread risk (2,3,3,4,4,2,3,6)

66 One from Saudi [7] 67 A W Spanish city (9) 68 Circumvention; a keeping away from

69 Piety: scrupulous exactitude (13) 70 In naughty, teasing,

fashion (13)

I Missing; unavailable

(7) 2 Portable advertising site (8.5)

3 Mountbatten its last Viceroy (5) 4 Using hyperbole (12)

5 German shepherds (9) 6 Palely loitering
Knight poem (Keats)
(2.5,4,4,5)
7 Marriage partners (7)

8 Precise, particular (8)

9 Full of guile (6) 10 Make worse (9) 11 Bubble of froth (7)

12 Examples, occurrences (9) 13 Units of distance at sea (8,5)

14 (Species) no longer around (7) 20 Test of views (7.4)

23 Cooper Hawkeye novel (3,4,2,3,8) 24 Unpowered vessel (7,4) 26 Tricked, forced, into

joining (ship once) (10) 28 Holds and uses (6) 29 Notwithstanding (11) 30 Ornamental

moulding; get Grandad (anag.) (3-3-4)

32 Fetched (7) 34 Country to E of Guyana (7)

36 Sea-horse genus; area of brain (11) 40 Her future husband

42 Nacre (6-2-5) 45 Women intellectuals (hist.) (13)

46 Male hormone (12) 51 Letting in (9)

52 Proverbially slow movers (9) 54 One with nervous

disorder (9) 56 Quandaries (8) 57 (Weather) staying

good (3,4) 58 Florida city; AYLI character (7) 60 Medieval polyphony

62 Random draw (7) 63 Wooden wheel rim

65 Of sound, its recording (5)

Times Two Crossword, name 40

and the second of the second

The seeds of self-destruction

Peter Mandelson's early combative press handling became, sadly, habitforming, says Christine Buckley

hen Stephen Byers, the new Trade and Industry Secretary. walks through the ever-revolving door at the DTI next week his first aim must be to last longer than the 150 days of his

He will have no shortage of advice about the best way forward. But he could do worse than start with his own public and press rela-tions — a role which, bizarrely, Peter Mandelson never got to grips

with in his time in government.
Robert Harris, the author, described the press coverage of his friend's loan scandal as the worst since Hitler. He was exaggerating. but he had a point. Some of Man-

delson's special treatment was secured by sheer irony - that Labour's king of spin was tarnished by the He just couldn't sume sleam that he so effectively campaigned against. But there was a resist second irony - that the great communicator had a fundamental inawielding bility to communicate on his own behalf. In as much as the screaming headlines before Christtruncheon mas helped to shape Mandelson's decision

that he should resign. he was hoist by his own petard. Mandelson's relations with the media were forged when he had a fight on his hands. As director of communications for Labour during the Kinnock years he had to attempt to present a unified front when the party was losing its direction and the press was bostile.

Part of his approach was to bully lobby correspondents, picking off individuals at press conferences and favouring less questioning reporters. There is scarcely a political reporter from the time that does not have a Mandelson shouting-match story. From then on he broadened his attacks across national press correspondents until he became a master of news manip-ulation through Labour's rebutted unit which, arguably, shaped much of the political news agends in the run-up to the last general election. Increasingly, he became more of a hate figure. But, by the last elec-tion, he should have known better and should have ensured that others fired the public relations bul-

By then he was an MP for five years and, more importantly, Tony Blair's most trusted and valuable political ally. Two years ago Mandelson was the man most likely to achieve the heights of government. He would have been advised to

have put a distance between himself and spindoctoring, concerning himself more publicly

with policy-shaping. But he couldn't resist being seen to wield the truncheon. While publicly bemoaning his own lack of good PR, many think he savoured his unpopularity because it could be interpreted as fear, therefore enhancing his power. It was a silly and elemental mistake. But Mandelson seems to have benefited

from little, if any, sensible advice. So his hubris continued into Government when, as Minister without Portfolio, he became the Government's key spin-doctor. Then came Mandelson's promotion to the Cabinet as Trade and Industry Secretary. Here was a proper job which he could embrace with vigour and with which he could raise the profile of the DTI to heights not seen since the Heseltine reign. And he did. Mandelson's short tenure was a rare blast of energy and enthusiasm through a department that had become both a backwater and a political graveyard.



Home truth: while publicly bemoaning his own lack of good PR, many believe that Peter Mandelson savoured his fearsome reputation

Yet his penchant for projecting a poor image rolled on despite pledging to the TUC in his first major speech "no more spin, honest". Mandelson had a particular un-ease at the DTI - industrial journalists. His dislike of them, part of whose role is to cover trade unions. was well and previously documented. He thought that they were too ready to put over the unions' case and uncontrollable in that they do not necessarily need to be friendly to politicians to get stories.

It had been hoped that Mandelson would adopt a more mature attitude in Government. He didn't. For the recent Competitiveness

White Paper, he excluded me from a briefing and told the BBC that he didn't want Steve Evans, its industry correspondent, to cover the story. Both Evans and I covered the publication of the White Paper, which, ironically, was largely well-received and favourably reported. The BBC told Mandelson that

Evans would do all radio coverage as well as television, thus freezing out the Secretary of State from half the airwaves if he did not co-operate. He did, but went on to tell other journalists he wanted his ministerial actions covered by business journalists and that industrial correspondents were "far too redolent of trade unions and old Labour". Mandelson turned down requests. for interviews, did not take questions at the Confederation of British Industry conference and excluded many reporters who covered his areas of responsibility. Representatives of Vogue had more success in getting access when they featured his now famous home.

He was silly on two counts. Industrial correspondents report on many business-related issues. not just labour relations. They cover almost the entire brief of the DTI, in fact. Secondly, to dismiss out of hand correspondents who talk to trade unions, who represent-

the interests of seven million people, and whose activities come under the DTI's auspices was - for an Industry Secretary - ludicrous. It is likely that nothing could have saved Mandelson from an

untimely exit from Government once news leaked of Geoffrey Robinson's loan. But the man without whom new Labour would not have been elected may have secured a more dignified departure if he had been more aware of his public image and a little less ready to rely on hullying as a communications tool

• The author is industrial correspondent of The Times

The needs I WY IT'S CableTV packges mething may ice scrutry mothing

THE Independence vision Commission is pusting ahead with an intigation into whether it is for calle companies to bun togeth er a package inclug a tie-phone line and Thampis writes Ray Snoddy

The package, of officed to subscribers for: cost of renting a phone limas been successful in driv up he number of cable scribes. Last year the Tichangel

the nature of how iti-channel TV is sold in th K when it dismantled thexisting system of charginor lane packages of basicy cha-nels before viewerould gr. access to premium annel As a result, cabsubsc bers have typics bed offered the low-pr. initial package including tes phone line, but we the can choose from arriery o

Now the ITC is by to pro duce a consultative cume which will seek tereste more level playinged for competitors in the irket.

Unlike cable opanies, neither satellite norganal terrestrial TV operatorave the capability of offeri a telephone service that mpetes with BT. One opti for the ITC would be to ist that consumers should a have to take the telephonend TV package, it could ast that the option of buy cither part of the packaget a fair price should be avable.

At last year's Eutean Ca bie Convention it ondo Elisabeth Murdocimana ing director of Sky awork gave warning thats can companies became ore su cessful they would eact re-ulation. News Intestion. owner of The Timesas a l per cent stake in BSB.



From eloquent forays into the mind of John Lennon to hammy rodents, noodle lights and cringe-inducing stereotypes of Euro-glamour, the television advertisements of 1998 produced a potpourri of style, humour and pure face

1. YW POLO: SELF-DEFENCE The best of the brilliant VW advertising is set in a tai-chi class, where it slowly becomes apparent that the participants are miming the actions of getting into a car. right down to adjusting the rear-view mir-ror. My favourite.

2. NIKE: AIRPORT

This is the best of the World Cup advertising by a long mile. The Brazilian team going through its paces in front of a captivated airport terminal audience and a mildly impressed Eric Cantona was so entrancing that it allowed us to forget about the commercialisation of football before the World Cup.

3. YW PASSAT: RULER

"Is that a ruler in your pocket or are you just pleased to see me?" The inevitable punchline in the latest of the "obsession" series for the Passat is that the VW engineer produces a ruler, much to Fraulein Barfly's disappointment.

4. AUDI AS: GOLF CLUB

The ad that finally exposed the petty world of golf clubs and the sad people who frequent them. Clubs are apparently banning Audis from their car



parks in return. Nothing's ever made me want to buy an

S. IKEA: DOWNSIZING The ad that highlighted just how cheap it was to kit out your entire office at tkea for the price of one junior. It was withdrawn after complaints.

What happened to our re-

nowned sense of humour?

6. ONE20NE: CHRIS 2 JOHN The best in this excellent series since Ian Wright and Martin Luther King. You really do believe that Evans would inundate Lennon with questions. but would he answer back? One2One has passed into the language with great style.

rupt you as you turn the pages of your favourite pub-

7. BATCHELOR'S SUPERNOODLES:

Advertising for the Men Be-

having Badly generation. The

mates larking about in the kitchen, throwing noodles at each other in martial-arts-mov-

ie style commits advertising

heresy through its lack of re-

spect for the product — and it's so much the better for it.

Along with Ikea, the most polit-

ically incorrect advertising in

years. I love the one where the

new father cradles someone

else's baby because it's a boy.

A woman leaves her man out-

side a classic desert diner. As

9. SONY STAMENA: CRASH

8. SCALEXTRIC: BOYS

hung heavy over the industry.

It can still work, through the drip-drip repetition of a huge advertising spend forcing its way into the consumer's subconscious. Historically, the leading exponent of this technique is Procter & Gamble, with s ad campaigns for the likes of Ariel, Daz, Bold and

IN THE year that Allan Leighton, the chief executive of Asda, committed advertising heresy by declar-

ing "I am a fan of wallpaper advertising", the issue

of advertising effectiveness - and how to prove it -

Wallpaper advertising is creative work that is so

bland and inoffensive as to be able to pass unnoticed

night after night on your television set, or not inter-

Other exponents include big retailers such as Asda and MFI, and the Dixons/Currys group. It is the type of advertising that never wins awards, and

which no one can remember even if pushed, but—to the horror of the luvvier elements in the industry—it appears to shift product. The argument about what is and what is not effective advertising has never raged more fiercely because clients are no longer pre-

pared to accept Lord Leverholme's adage that half their advertising budget will be wasted, but nobody knows which half. The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising's Effectiveness Awards exist to carry the ad industry's message to the client community, but its last two

because critics suggested its success was down to its vast budget; and, this year, the Health Education Anthority's anti-drugs advertising, because many thought the proof offered was questionable. But behind this quest for effectiveness is the issue of trust. Or the lack of it. Rightly or wrongly, the

advertising industry has not regained the trust of

WORST OF 1998

1. LEVIS: REVEN THE HAMSTER

The great "boy meets girl" campaign came to an end last

year, only to be replaced with

an appalling set of commer-cials that ruined years of good

work building the brand. For-

get whether Kevin really died or not, it might have been an interesting ad — for Diesel!

The shape and design of the

funky Ford Ka were compared

to a pair of football boots (well,

it was pre-World Cup) by a bes-tubbled hunk grinning insane-

ly. Everything about it was

2. FORD KA: FOOTBALL BOOTS

grand prix winners have proved controversial: BT.

much of the marketing community lost during the last recession.

Too many clients believed that too many agencies were making too much money out of them, without being able to prove whether the money was well

In a gloomier 1999, harassed marketing directors, with finance directors breathing down their necks, will be seeking supporting proof as never before. It's one reason that an over-reliance on pre-air consumer research has led to more and more campaigns that

are safe but uninspiring.

As a result, the biggest challenge for the UK ad industry in 1999 is to convince its clients to value its strategic and creative intuition, the very skills for which ad agencies are hired in the first place. It will be able to do so only if it can restore lost trust. Taking the need to demonstrate effectiveness more seri-

ously would be a start.

Irish cliché in the book. 4. CITROËN XSARA: CLAUDIA SCHIFFER

tract to advertise your unremarkable car with its unpro-

What do you do if you have Claudia Schiffer under connounceable name? Ask her to walk down a sweeping stair-case, remove her clothing and

misguided, from the terrible climb into the Xsara, naked. casting to the pretentious di-Only she isn't naked and you don't even get the very best computer-generated image of 3. KERRYGOLD: JACK CHARLTON her as if she were naked. Lazy

To be precise, this was adverthinking, sloppy commercial. tising Kerrygold's Dubliner Irish Cheese, so who better to endorse it than that celebrated 5. AMARETTO DI SARONNO: PARTY When will they learn? Lowesthonorary Irishman, Jack Charlton? Cue every soft-focus common denominator pan-Eu-ropean advertising: throw in a few glamorous Eurotrash types, have them bray hysteri-cally at each other's jokes, and mix in product (alcohol) shots

over plinky-plonk soundtrack. 6. FERRIERO ROCHER: FAMILY PARTY

The ambassador has clearly hit impoverished times. In-stead, assorted escapees from

a local asylum celebrate a porticoed house by build a Ferrero tree ind smiling the ly. So soft fous it could a pom movie

7. NORWIC UNION: RED BRACES it's supposed to be aboutal

people cebrating afflice and secury. How manyippie garde gnomes havou ever met tat sport red bas?

8. PERSIL: ABLETS I don't eva know where be-

gin. Oncegain "real" coriners are fined endorsingle product bu could have ne it better a your Handym. Yet the roduct is a sible idea that eserves success

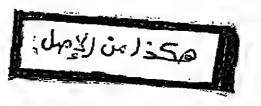
9. JOHN SITHES: ORDINARY

The advetiser has disper with it celebrity endote (Jack De), replacing him we a cardbord cut-out of an or nary bike because Smith's a so good it does

need a debrity. It does. 10. AMERA: ONLINE The wooen, nauseating fair

ly waxingly rical about the ternet whe loads of compu text scroll down the moth clothes haplenty to put me using the let

 Stefanoilatfield is the Camaign.



he struggles to get his cam-

corder to work, a car roars up,

suddenly flips over and crash-

es into the roof of the diner

amid a huge explosion. She re-

turns from the washroom, per-

plexed. He looks sheepish. It is

one of the best-directed spots

Alan Shearer sits on the train

taking the mickey out of Eric

Cantona's performance in an

earlier Eurostar ad. Shearer

philosophises about gibberish,

and wonders about the Mo-

Donald's of the Scottish fan sit-

ting behind him. The best of

World Cup promotions.

some excellent McDonald's

10. McDONALD'S: EUROSTAR

of the year.

packages may ice scrutny

in the state of th

FRIDAY JANUA

Who needs sex? It's something for nothing that sells

Promotions and Diana were the circulation winners of 1998

national tabloids for years what sells newspapers — Editors such as Neil Wallis at the

Sunday People or Colin Myler at the Sunday Mirror --and they will answer in three words: sex and football. "It's an unbeatable combi-Wallis

Minter week by winter week, that

shelves in 1998, according to Paper Round's annual survey of the year's bestselling stories and promotions, were promises of money, something for nothing or special supple ments or Diana, Princess of Wales - at least until the armiversary of her death in September, when the nation at last decided to it her rest in peace. Two papers top the 1998 best-

seller list. The biggest boost in colume of sales was won by the Daily Mail when it launched its 12-week Saturday Diana pertwork in January and achieved an increase of 415,000 on the previous week. By March , after offering a Diana video, a Diana rose and a free poster. Saturday sales had risen to 3,386,110, the highest in the paper's history.

The biggest percentage increase — 18 per cent — was achieved by The Mirror when it serialised in March the story of Trevor Rees-Jones, the bodyguard who was injured in the Paris crash. Sales lifted by 387,000 or the first day and art extra 1.4 million copies were old during the week.

The News of the World and The Sun also did well from Diana, as dd The Mail on Sunday when it serialised Penny

Prince of Wales, and achieved the second-highest sale record-ed so far, an increase over the previous week of 219,000 copies, lifting it to 2,567,500.

Christmas television listings were winners for The Sun (up 353,000) and the Sunday Sunday People (up 176,000): the winner for The was its annual Rich List. The Sun, on the day after England lost to Argentina in the World Cup, and the Sunday Mir-ror with an Only

Fools and Horses video and World Cup coins did well from football; yet again The Sun raced home with the Grand National; and cheap Ryanair flights scored for The Sun and News of the World. Three of the top ten Sun bestsellers fea-

Yet the marketing-led promotions that sold most extra.



Special supplements on Diana. Princess of Wales, and promises of money or prizes were the two subjects which moved newspapers fastest off the the newsagents' shelves last year

fers of money and appeals to vied with The Mirror and Sunthan 250,000. The Daily Mail joined in in September with Lucky Wallets. This promo-

the gambling instinct. The Sun and News of the World day Mirror with Moneybags, achieving sales lifts of more tion was genuinely different: every reader could win a prize.

126,300 copies a day, and by almost 250,000 for The Mail on Sunday. Soon after The Sun and News of the World joined in with Every One's A Winner. The most successful market-

ing stratagem of the past five years, a cut in cover price, has doubled the sale of The Times. and The Daily Telegraph has enlisted 271,500 pre-paid subscribers at less than the cover price. Five years on, however, cutting cover prices has diminishing power and works must successfully as a one-off tactic.

The single biggest sales increase of the year was won by The Mirror when it cut its price on September 26 from 32p to 10p. It put on 475,000 an increase of nearly 17 per cent. The Times boosted sales by 261,000 (33 per cent) on Saturday, January 10, when it introduced its new magazine and reduced the cover price to 20p. Its second and third highest increases were for a Titanic supplement (up 91,000 on a Saturday) and a reprint of 1912 Titanic reports (up 105,000 on a Monday).

The top 20 is dominated by three newspaper groups — Associated Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday, News International, owners of The Sun,

News of the World, The Times and The Sunday Times, and the Mirror Group, with The Mirror, Sunday Mirror and the Sunday People. They are the big hitters, using big mar-keting budgets for promotion deals and television advertis-

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ing to boost sales. Success for other newspapers comes in smaller doses. The Express had its best boost from a gardening supplement that put on 120,000 (8 per cent). The group's other successes were based on sporting promotions: The Express added 72,000 in August for football

day gained 126,000 in January in promoting sport, and World Cup magazines added 64,000 for The Express on Sunday and 38,000 for the Daily Star (7 per cent). A Panini World Cup stickers promotion gave The Observer its best Sunday.

The Budget delivered the highest increases of the year for The Guardian (up 60,000) and The Daily Telegraph (up 21,000). The Sunday Tele-graph, paradoxically, had its best sale on January 4 when it raised its cover price. The Independent prefers not to disclose its successes, but it is a safe

in August when it lists university vacancies.
The top 20 demonstrates the

crucial role of marketeers in maintaining and boosting newspaper sales. The Sunday Times hit its highest sale for years on October 4 when it offered a BSkyB digital magazine, a wine guide and Woodrow Wyatt's diaries. The Times added 397,000 in sales in one week of September when it promoted an easyJet offer and Richard Branson's autobiography. Divide that by six and average sales for the week are up by 66,000. Divide

competition among British newspapers, such increases really matter. They matter still more when set in the context of declining newspaper sales. The good news is that the British still buy more than 13 million national newspapers a day and more than 14 million on Sundays. The bad news is that year-on-year sales in November were down by 150,000 on weekdays - and by 770,000 on Sundays (which is really bad news). Without all those

World-Cup/Only Fools

Junor's biography of the Drama ahead as media supply outstrips demand

the millennium. you might be misaken in thinking that 1999 will be a transitional year, a pointer to more exciting times. Not so for the media, with the year likely to produce a higher than average amount of drama and crises.
Reality will shed light on some of the more ambitious flights of technological fancy. The biggest reality test will be that applied to digital television - both satellite and ter-

restrial — launched just a few months ago with parties and fireworks. Right now, it is a phoney war. Equipment is in short supply and both SkyDigital and Obdicion or inath boast of "fantastic" ONdigital can justly boast of "fantastic" interest and black boxes that are walking the shelves. But once the "early adop-is" and techno-freaks have had their appetite for 100 channels of TV satisfied, we will start to learn just how deep is the de-sire for extra choice, much of it in the form of marginal channels. If the public turns out to be stubborn, unimpressed or wary, watch for the first managerial sacri-

fices before the summer holidays end. This will also be the year in which we find out if Lord Hollick can do more than Stabilise The Express - holding the circulation decline to manageable levels. Or can the patient rise from its sickbed?

As the life and death struggle continues, media watchers - in London, at least will be diverted by the launch of two "free" daily newspapers. News Interna-tional, owner of The Times, will aim a new title at what it hopes is the soft underbelly of the Evening Standard's near mopopoly of classified advertising in the capi-Associated Newspapers, which owns the Evening Standard, will try to protect its other many standard, will try to protect its other flank by launching a free morning edition. Delicious shades of an oldhioned press war provides proof that the Internet is not entirely dominating

Raymond

Snoddy

If things start to flag, there will be the diversion of blood sport as the BBC tries to find a new director general.

Recent research by the Henley Centre pointed to a problem that could come to a head this year. The consult-ants tracked what they have called "the attention economy" - the time and money consumers are prepared to spend on the media, in all its forms, in relation to the supply of media products. The researchers discovered "a Niagara of supply" measured against only "a pint-glass of demand".

The trend is well-known but figures for the past decade are startling nonetheless. Between 1989 and 1997, there was a 1,525 per cent rise in the number of television stations and a 213 per cent growth in ra-dio stations. The number of book titles

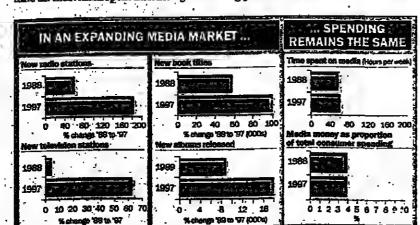
was up by 77 per cent and new albums up 114 per cent; new magazine titles were up only 19 per cent. Remarkably, the Henley Centre found that over the past decade the amount of time an individual spent interacting with

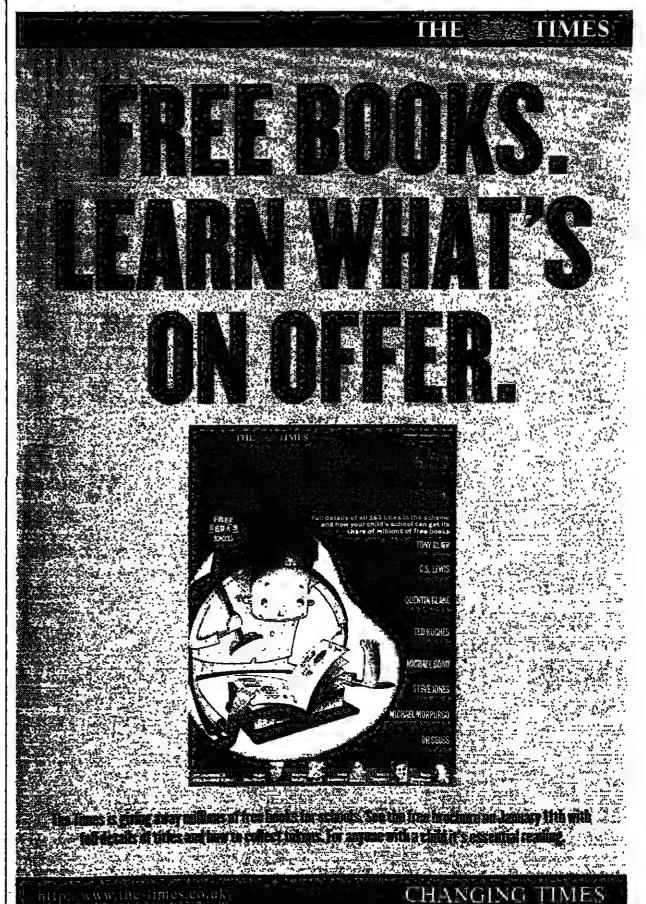
hours a week — or, in terms of money, from 4 per cent of consumer spending.

Despite all the new channels and me-dia offerings, the forecast for 1999 is for an increase in time spent with the media of only six minutes a person a week and £8 extra spending a year. This amounts to little more than two visits to the cinema or eight Sunday newspapers. Such bench-mark figures must induce an instant reali-ty factor, not to mention sobriety. It gets worse for some sections of the

media in this battle for consumers' time and money. The Henley Centre estimates that in 1999 the consumer will devote six minutes less a week to reading compared with last year and 24 minutes less to viewing. But it predicts that a consumer will spend 18 minutes more listening, and 18 more with interactive media. The money breakdown is: £7 a year more spent on viewing: £2 more on interacting. £1 less on listening no change for reading. The news is worst of all for newspa-

pers. It is the only medium in which the researchers predict loss of both consumer time and money this year. As the consultants warn us. it's a fight for survival. There is no danger that 1999 will be a boring year for the media.





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Western business under threat from Islamic backlash

BY CARL MORTISHED INTERNATIONAL RUSINESS EDITOR

AN Islamic backlash against the recent US and British attacks on Iraq will pose a threat to Western businesses in 1999. raising the prospect of further terrorist attacks in Egypt and growing unrest in

A report by Merchant International Group (MIG), a consultancy which spe-cialises political, economic and security

risks, predicts that the bombing of Iraq will escalate the growth of Islamic terrorism. MIG sees the recent deaths in the Yemen as evidence of the beginnings of a campaign aimed at Westerners doing business or travelling in the region.

MIG claimed yesterday that a repre-

sentative of Ozama bin Laden, the Saudi Arabian accused of funding terrorist at-tacks from Afghanistan, was recently sent to Syria to consult with members of Hamas. According to MIG, the purpose

of the meeting was to plan attacks on British and American citizens. The organisation also predicts further terrorist activity from the Algerian GIA and the Egyptian group Al-Gama'at-Is-lamiyya. In Egypt, efforts by the Govern-ment to reduce the Islamic content of the eductational system and to reduce the in-fluence of religious scholars will also

More alarming is MIG's prediction of an increase in religious tension in Tur-

key. Stuart Poole-Robb, chief executive of MIG, explained that the Turkish Government had been taking measures to curb the spread of Islamic culture and teaching. He said: Things are going to get out of hand. I don't think it will be as aggressive as Egypt but I do think there will be protests. There is a fear that there could be a Taliban-inspired Islamic ex-

tremist backlash." Turkey's recent overtures to Israel are expected to fuel the protests and increase

self sandwiched between Turkey and Israel, two pro-Western states, and Syria has been supporting Kurdish separa-

MIG monitors the activities of some 42 terrorist groups as well as 5,000 criminal organisations and advises companies on how to avoid such risks. In commast, MIG now believs Iran is be-coming a safer place to do business and weapon predicts that Italy, France and the UK Africa.

tension with Syria. The latter will find it-self sandwiched between Turkey and Is-with the country. Mr Poole-Robb said: "In 1999 we will see significant changes. With Rafsanjani and Khatami working in tandem; they are doing all they can to attract foreign direct investment."

Elsewhere, MIG points to the potential of armed conflict between Morrocco and Boo! !!

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of armed conflict between Morocco and Algeria over disputed southern territory, with the former country purchasing weaponry from both Russia and South

Boeing lifts deliveries to beat projections

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN SEATTLE

A TROUBLED year for Boeing ended on an upbeat note when the company announced the delivery of a record 550 aircraft for the year, meeting its 1998 goal and exceeding a recent projection that it would deliver 546 aircraft.

Boeing suffered a series of sethacks in 1998, forcing it to cut production and jobs in response to Asian economic prob-lems and competition from Airbus Industrie, its only significant competitor.

But Alan Mulally, newly named president of the commercial airplane division, Boeing's largest group, said the company's success in meeting the production goal and its ex-pectations of beating it in 1999 by delivering about 620 jetliners showed the "production system is starting to get healthy again."

Mr Mulally took the reins of the commercial airplane division from Ron Woodard in September as part of a sweeping reorganisation. Under Mr Woodard the division tried to nearly triple production over three years, but its plants, staffed with many newly hired workers, were over-whelmed by parts shortages, forcing Boeing to halt work on two assembly lines.

Since September Boeing has given warning of lower earnings in the coming year and announced plans to eliminate up to 38,000 jobs by the end of 1999 and an additional 10,000 jobs in 2000. Its workforce peaked at 238,000 in June 1998. Mr Mulally said the Asian economic crisis should have less of an impact on the group this year as fewer deliveries are scheduled to Asian airlines.

Small IFAs face fines after missing pensions deadline

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MORE than 100 small independent financial advisers (LFAs) have missed the important deadline to organise re-dress for clients in the first stage of the pensions mis-selling review, the Personal Investment Authority said last night.

Firms were obliged to submit details of compensation offered to people who were mis-sold personal pension plans in the 1980s and who are now retired or close to retirement by December 31.

The IFAs had to send in documents showing how they had calculated compensation and how many cases they had dealt with.

The PIA said yesterday that it had received a considerable number of forms in the past few days as IFAs rushed to send in their returns.

Many small firms brought in staff over the Christmas and new year period in an attempt to meet the deadline, and all of the 41 biggest pension providers — among them many household names — have met the deadline already.

The PLA issued a stern warning earlier this week that it would not hesitate to issue fines to firms that missed the deadline, which was set in spring 1997.

A spokeswoman said: "We are receiving the final pieces of information and seeking ligures and details of caseloads. By the end of next week we will have a clear picture of who has missed the deadline. and will then begin to enamine whether or not they have a valid excuse."

Last month Patricia Hewitt. the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, took a tough line against pension providers and



Patricia Hewitt has taken a tough line against pension providers and IFAs, and accused some of dragging their feet

IFAs, some of which she accused of dragging their feet. Last year more than 600 small IFA firms missed the ini-

tial deadline because of probkems filling in forms or compil-The PLA said that it had not ruled out "naming and sham-

ing" and fining the principals of independent financial advis-

ers that consistently missed

Some see the introduction of the proposed stakeholder pension - announced last month - as an indication that the Government has lost patience with high-charging insurance companies.

According to calculations by Lane Clark & Peacock, the consulting actuary, however, the average value of the stakeholder pension could be just £50 a.

David Lane, one of the firm's partners, said that the sum could be even less if the investment funds performed badly, or if investors could not afford to save more than £100. a month. An individual now

aged 30 paying £100 a month for the next 30 years could end up with the £50 a week penion, be said.

"Stakeholder pensions do not provide any guarantees. Individuals will be subject to the vagaries of the stock market, the effects of inflation and the prevailing price of annuities at

Microsoft launches attack on witness

FROM OUVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

pre-emptive strike against the first government witness to be called when the historic antitrust trial resumes after the Christmas recess.

William Harris, the chief executive of Inuit, the leading personal finance software maker, is expected to give details of the arm-twisting he suffered at Microsoft's hands, His written testimony was prepared for release this week.

In a stinging personal at-tack on Mr Harris, Microsoft said: "Mr Harris's testimony is rife with rank speculation, hypothetical situations and attempts at complex legal, technical and economic analysis by a witness who is neither an attorney, a software developer, nor an economist."

The animosity between Microsoft and Mr Harris harks back to the software group's repeated attempts to take over inuit. Mr Harris was able to fight off the attempts with the belp of the Justice Department which is now prosecuting the Microsoft case.

The takeover attempts were vetoed by the government reg-ulators because Microsoft already offers a personal finance package called Money. The Inuit product, Quicken, is the

market leader. Mr Harris will follow the example of executives from AOL, Sun Microsystems, Netscape and Intel who have all testified against Microsoft Another-witness. Scott Cook, the

MICROSOFT has launched a former inuit chairman, even accused Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, of attempted

> In 1996 Mr Gates sent an email to Mr Cook, offering to do a favour "that would cost us something like \$1 [million] to do in return for switching browsers in the next few months".

Microsoft's Internet Exploter browser is directly competing with Netscape's Navigator.

The trial will resume on Monday, ending the recess that started on December 16. The trial has already lasted longer than lawyers had anticipated. The judge originally wanted to finish hearing testimonies before Christmas.



Gates: pre-emptive strike

THE SUNDAY TIMES RAPE OR ROMANCE? children, and she's pot seven years The Sunday Times Magazina in a weekend PLUS Art trail: Charles Saatchi gives us a neurotic realism movement, the hottes Glamour: bimpos are no jonger requi Miss World, but the girls are still using to a saso THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Russian **GDP** shrinks by 5.5%

By Alasdair Murray ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Russian Government yesterday admitted that the country's economy had shrunk at its fastest rate since the end of the Soviet era.

Revealing the full extent of the damage wreaked by the economic crisis which has enguilfed the country, the Economics Ministry revealed statistics showing that Russian GDP contracted by 5.5 per cent in 1998.

Annual inflation has also soared to nearly 85 per cent, while trade, heavily dependent on oil exports, declined by 13.6 per cent. The Russian curren-cy, the rouble, has lost nearly 70 per cent of its value since it became the target of speculators in late summer.

The depressing data was released as one of the country's largest banks moved one step closer to becoming the first substantial financial services company to go into liquidation since the crisis began.

Tokobank, once one of Russia's 20 largest finance bouses, was ruled bankrupt by a Mos-cow court with \$363 million assets of just \$165 million.

Anagen property move another biotech blow

By SAEED SHAH

THE crisis in the UK biotechnology sector deepened yesterday when Anagen gave up on micro-organisms research and launched an agreed bid for a property company, to be

paid for in shares. Gander Holdings, which has residential property in Lon-don's Kensington and Chelsea. agreed to the deal to take advantage of Anagen's tax losses, which stand at more than EZI million. Future profits can be offset against these tax losses

to avoid paying tax.

Anagen has been a shell company since its automated immuno-assay technology proved unsuccessful and it about £35 million - a little was delisted from the stock market in April 1997. The offer is on the basis of

one Anagen share for every Gander share, and 512 million new Anagen shares will be issued to Gander shareholders. The enlarged group will be called Gander Properties and will include all the Gander

board. The current members of the Anagen board, except William Cairns, chairman, and Kim Martin, will resign without compensation.

Gander, whose shares closed on Wednesday at 6%p, has a market capitalisation of

more than half its net asset value of £66 million.

In August Gander bought

Barrasford, a similar property company, for £24.4 million. Gander said in its interim statement in October that it expects to make losses in the years ending January 1, 1999 and 2000.

In a joint statement, Gander and Anagen said that the prospects for Gander, as enlarged by the Barrasford acquisition. are encouraging and strong demand continues for the highquality residential lettings in which it specialises.



Customers can keep number when changing provider

Mobile users given portability

By Sarah Cunningham

MOBILE phone users can expect to be bombarded with advertising and special offers over the coming weeks as their serv-ice providers seek to retain their loyalty and to recruit subscribers from rival companies after the advent today of mobile

number portability.

Number portability will allow customers to switch from one network operator to another and take their existing mobile phone number with them.

Orange said that it would be launching an advertising campaign to support mobile number portability. Bob Fuller, the group's chief operating officer, said:

fered real choice and will be able to vote with their feet if they are dissatisfied, un-constrained by the problems of having to change their number.

"We will be vigorously pursuing those customers who may be dissatisfied with their present network, making it both

easy and simple to join Orange."
For customers who switch their existing number to One 2 One between today and the end of March, the company is offering up to £100 back on the second bill following transfer.

Both Vodafone and Cellnet are relying

on their existing offers for the moment. David Edmonds, the Director-General ber portability "will encourage much more intense compenition in the mobile market as the four companies fight to win and retain customers. The Oftel chief added: "In the end the winner will be the .customer." The operators will be allowed to charge

customers to cover the costs of transfe ring the numbers but this is not expected to be more than a one-off charge of £25.

A spokesman for Vodafone said that Offel and the service providers had been working for the past 12 months to ensure that the technology is ready for the in-creased volume of people switching ser-vers that the change will bring.

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Boots to take on 100 staff

Boots The Chemist is tak-ing on 100 staff to train as preparation for the launch. next month of three ranges of French skincare prod-ucts. The advisers will offer skincare consultations in a specially designed area of 90 stores, next to

The products include a range from Laboratoires Dermatologiques Lutsia, a French business bought in 1996 by Boots Healthcare International, the non-prescription medicine division of the Boots group. All the brands aim to bridge the gap between medicinal and cosmetic

i on

Korean bank sale A US investment consortium took control of the all-ing Korea First Bank (KFB) yesterday in the first significant foreign acquisi-tion of a South Korean financial heavyweight. The consortium, led by New-bridge Capital, which was selected ahead of HSBC Holdings, agreed to buy a 51 per cent stake in KFB for an undetermined price. Officials said the deal would help South Korea to introduce advanced banking skills into the industry. which has been marred by corruption and uncon-trolled lending.

Ulster gold Northern Ireland is set for a gold rush after Omagh Minerals won a licence to mine the precious metal in the province. The mine, near Omagh, will employ about 60 people when it opens later this year. The company expects to mine about 50,000 tonnes of ore

AT&T wins approval for \$32bn TCI deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST

The \$32 billion (£19 billion) takeover of TCI, the secondbiggest US television cable operator, by AT&T, the leading phone company, has received the go-ahead from the Justice Department.

To win approval, the two companies agreed to divest TCI's 23 per cent stake in Sprint PCS, which offers mo-bile-phone services in direct competition to AT&T.

TCI will not have to sell its stake immediately but has to sign control over to a trustee who then has five years to sell the stake valued at more than

The Justice Department approval clears the way for the creation of a new type of tele-coms group which combines orthodox phone lines and sophisticated fibre-optic lines with a view to building a ner-work that can deliver phone, television and computer services into homes.

Michael Armstrong, the AT&T chief executive, negotiated the TCI deal soon after his

AT& Michael Armstrong, left, agreed the takeover with the TCI chairman, John Malone, in June

appointment last year. Wall Street views his vision of one integrated network as an ambitious bet that could either bankrupt AT&T or give it the monolithic position it enjoyed in the telephone sector before being broken up by the regula-

AT&T's compeniors had lobbied the Justice Department an all-powerful AT&T. But the ware alone.

After flexing its muscles early regulators took the view that competition was strong in the telecoms sector and that companies such as WorldCom MCI are poised to follow Mr

Armstrong's lead. AT&T itself repeatedly pointnecessary to build the envisioned network. Analysts esti-

spend about \$5 billion on hard-

in 1998 when merger mania was in full flow, the Justice Department has now returned to its more docile ways. Earlier this week it approved the BP-Amoco deal. The regulator's biggest casualty last year was the scup-pered takeover of Northrop Gru-man by Lockheed Martin.

ICI sale to **Enron** completed

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ENRON, the US power company, boosted its interests in the UK vesterday with the completion of a £300 million deal to buy ICI's Teesside

utility interests. The purchase, first announced in November, gives Enron an operation that supplies large industrial customers with gas, electricity and support services. The interests include a power station, water treatment plant, rail tracks and more than 1,760 acres of land. More than 550 staff will be transferred to Enron.

ICI's decision to sell the business — on which it estimates it will make a £120 million post-tax gain — is part of its overhaul of operations to shift away from industrial chemicals and industrial divisions to focus on speciality products, coatings and mate-

The company said it will use the sale proceeds to reduce debt, which stands at

Executives at E*Trade get \$100m present

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

second-biggest US online brokerage, have given themselves a Christmas present worth \$100 million (£60 million) after repricing their share options.

According to Securities & Exchange Commission docu-ments, the company rewrote option schemes when Internet shares were at a low in October. Since then, the sector has

staged a stunning return to new heights. E*Trade's share price rose from a low of \$17, when the options were repriced, to \$60, swept along by Wall Street's keen interest in any company associated with the Internet.

Of E*Trade's 700 employees about two thirds are said to have share options. How many benefited from the re-pricing is not known. Top executives, including Christos Cotsakos, the president, received

550,000 options each last year. The company reported to the SEC that a total of 3.5 million shares were affected by the repricing move. The paper gains generated in the process

EXECUTIVES at E*Trade, the are estimated at more than

In most option schemes the recipients have to wait for several years to benefit from the scheme, which is not unusual in the get-rich-quick Internet sector, vests at a rate of 25 per

While such a system would be viewed as an assault on shareholder value in most other companies, the E*Trade shareholders are unlikely to

complain very loudly.

They too have benefited from the near quadrupling of the share price and probably do not want to rock the cashladen boat, analysts said.

In an attempt to show a degree of modesty, the company made it known that the repriced options would have their vesting periods reset so that nobody

To prevent a repricing at a temporary share price low. most traditional company remuneration committees have policies on when and how quickly

Bank unions may merge

Plans for the first industry-wide trade union for banking and building society workers will be put to the vote this month. Three of the main banking unions - the Banking Insurance and Finance Union, UNIFI and the NatWest Staff Association — will ask their 200,000 members to approve the deal, which has been forged after two years of discussions. If it is endorsed, the super-union will start in May.

To become the world's No1 we just merged hundreds of companies

together. It's obvious really. If you want to build your business you have to work together. It's why Lotus is the business (world's No1) e-mail company. In fact 38.4% of the world's file-share and client/server e-mail customers; including 42 of Fortune's top 50 companies, use Lotus' e-mail because of its top-notch flexibility. Not surprising considering the unrivalled (integration). It can easily adapt into your present system, so you can protect your previous investment. And once fitted you can enjoy something rather unusual: An e-mail system that actually delivers. Every time. All thanks to lots of fascinating technical gizmos that give impeccable (reliability). And then finally it's all wrapped in Lotus (security) to give you the Fort Knox of e-mail systems. Really complicated defence codes are built into the core of the system to prevent nosey people messing around in your private business. We'd love to tell you all about them but, obviously, they're a secret. Anyway, if you want your company to grow, visit our website to discover how Lotus can help you to merge.

(flexibility) has made our e-mail system the business world's No1. www.lotus.com/1



(b) A coin in base silver circulating in Poland and Prussia in the 17th century. It was known as "goldentympa", and was worth 30 groschen despite being stamped only 18. The name became synonymous with "debased coin".

NERF EAR

(c) A special bumper attached to front, back and sides of a modified stock car in order to prevent the wheels of the one car touching the wheels of another car while racing.

(a) A betting ploy, whereby the gambler must pick the two runners that come first and second in a race, and get them in the (c) A Jewish sacred book containing the Exodus narrative. It is rit-

(c) A Jewish sacred cook consuming the Endous fair rauve. It is the only Hebrew book with a long and consistent tradition of illustration.



Winning post: Paul Chisholm, president, left, and Larry Ingeneri, finance director of Colt Telecom, shares of which soured 482 per cent from 154p to 896%p

Colt canters home to cheer investors in City stakes

it up in the British Telecom advertising campaign when he uttered the phrase "it's good to talk". Good and certainly profitable if you happen to be one of those City investors who invested heavily in the telecoms sector during 1998.

No fewer than four telecom companies feature in the top 20 best performers, with BT finishing a creditable 30th after a leap of of almost 90 per cent in its share price from 478½p to 905½p.

But the star was Colt Telecom, which was first past the post with a huge lead on its nearest rival. This followed a leap in its share price from 154p to 8961/p, a staggering 482 per cent — a move that also catapulted the company into the league of the biggest 100 companies in Britain.

Also in the running was Orange, the mobile phone operator floated a couple of years ago by British Aerospace and Hutchison Whampoa, whose shares grew from 264p to 698hp, or 164 per cent. It was followed by Telewest Communications, a company that also achieved fame as a constituent of the FTSE 100 index before

Michael Clark reports on the winners and losers of this year's stock market steeplechase

17312p, a leap of 147 per cent. In 13th place came Voda-fone, Britain's biggest mobile phone operator, with a surge of 537p to 976p, or 122 per cent. Not bad performances for investors and certainly more rewarding than if they had chosen to leave their hard-earned savings under the bed.

But it was not all plain sailing and, at one stage, there were doubts that the equity market would achieve any gains on the year at all. After an encouraging start

to 1998, buoyed by takeover fever and gains in the banking sector, investors were soon forced to ponder the collapse in Far Eastern economies. An unexpected rise in domestic interest rates in June, sent the pound soaring, which made life increasingly difficult for manufacturers and started the rollercoaster ride that investors were forced to endure for much of the rest of the year. Having hit an all-time high

earning a penny profit. It start-ed 1998 at 70p and ended on of 6,183.7 on July 20, the FTSE 100 had plunged to 4,599.2, its lowest level of the year, by October 8. It closed on Wednesday, at 5,882.6, a rise on the year of 747.1, or 14.5 per cent.

The outlook for 1999 remains uncertain. There is no shortage of money finding its way into the market, interest rates are falling and the high levels of corporate activity show no signs of abating. Against that must be set the slowdown in the UK economy. the slump in the Far East and continuing market volatility.

nother successful sector in 1998 was information technology. No less than six IT companies featured in the top 20 best performers of fully listed shares. The sector would have been even more impressive had it not been for a wobble during the final quar-ter as investors began to worry about the impact of recession on earnings growth.

Many IT companies are

ment banking sector, which has undergone heavy rationalisation in recent months. This

computer systems and the up-dating of old ones less likely. The best performance came from RM with a leap of 304p to 463½p, or 190 per cent. Similar performances were seen in Sherwood International, up from 530p to £13.55 (155 per cent), London Bridge Software, 50844p to £12.874 (153 per cent). Logica, 2314 p to 5224 p (125 per cent), Kewill Systems, 570p to £12.75 (123 per cent) and FI Group, up from 155%p to 328%p (111 per cent).

makes the likelihood of in-

creased expenditure on new

But not all companies struck the right chord with investors during 1998. The expected re-vival for retailers failed to materialise. Instead, they had to face up to tougher trading conditions with profit warnings sprinkled liberally throughout the year. One of the worst performers was House of Fraser, down from 200%p to 52p, or 74

per cent. At the other end of the high street, JJB Sports plunged 64 per cent from 649p to 2314p as the craze for replica football shirts came apart at the seams amid falling prices and increased competition.
The big ticket retailers, such

as the carpet and furniture stores, were also hit. They saw their shares collapse in the wake of a plethora of profit warnings. A case in point was Harveys Furnishings, which saw its price fall 170p to 101/ap (63 per cent) on the back of several profit warnings. Other re-tailers to feel the pinch included MFI Furniture, 120p to 34½p (7) per cent), and the supermarket chain Alldays, down 342p

(66 per cent) to 171½p. Booker found itself left on the shelf after a difficult year that saw it filted not once, but twice. First, it was in bid talks with Somerfield. But the talks faltered and it later became clear that Somerfield had taken a look at the company and did not like what it found.

A profits warning was fol-lowed by talks with Budgens, another supermarket chain. But once again the talks came to nothing and were followed by another profits warning. This was all very bad news

for Stuart Rose, the man brought in to revive Booker's fortunes. He bought a large chunk of shares before being forced to issue the profit warnings. They finished the year 255%p (80 per cent) lower at 62p. The fall from grace of Albert

Fisher, another food distributor, has been as swift as it has been dramatic. The shares started the year at 36%p and closed on Wednesday at 54p, a fall of 86 per cent. Boardroom upheavals combined with a series of profit warnings to drive the shares lower.

iocompatibles was another significant casualty in 1998 after the quality of its blood vessel supports, or stents, to be supplied to Johnson & Johnson was called into question. The shares started the year at 4921/sp and finished it at 86p, a loss of 82 per cent.

The inexorable rise of Regent funs since its flotation in 1993 came to a shuddering halt in June as it served up a profits warning laced with accounting errors. Its shares crashed 140p that day to 176%p and any chance of a recovery has been scuppered by the dire summer weather and the gloomy outlook for consumer spending. Its shares ended the year 69 per

cent lower at 101½p.

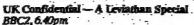
Powerscreen provided a classic example of how ruthless the City can be at the merest hint of scandal. It provided one of the most dramatic falls seen in the stock market last year in the wake of the discovery of accounting irregularities. Having started the year at 607%p, it ended at 114p, a loss of 493p, or 81 per cent.

Rates for great denomination barrierotes
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Fifty years of favourites

BBC1, 405pm

That lovely little trail for BBC children's programmes (it even had its own title — Future Generations) may have given you — never mind the smaller members of your family — a taste for this omnibus of clips from Muffin the Mule on through the decades to Teletubbies. SO years of programming for children so you're bound to find something you remember, whatever your age Bagguss? Pogles Wood! How about Multi-Coloured Swap Shop? Viewers have been youing for their favourines by phone, letter and e-mail and today we'll hear which programme is their overall poll-winner. Meanwhile, celebrities have their say... for Gary Lineler you can't beat Bine Peter. The Clangers are at the centre of Patrick Moore's universe and Angela Rippon is nostalgic for The Magic Roundahout...



For the first time television has been given advance sight of the secret documents closed until January I of each year under the 30 year rule. So, though we haven't yet got what the Americans pride themhaven't yet got what the Americans pride themselves on — a Freedom of Information Act — we
can now see the true picture of events in 1968 as
kept under wraps by the Public Record Office.
Says presenter Mark Urban: "I think viewers will
be surprised by how directly our 1968 films relate
to 1998 headlines." Included are Brian Walden's
report on Prime Minister Harold Wilson's "inside
stories" and a look at the declassification process
within the Foreign Office. Other contributors are
James Callaghan, Roy Jenkins, Barbara Castie,
Dennis Healey and other key ministers from 1968.
We're told that what is released today amounts to
"a mile and a hail" of primed material —
Leviathan has been working over several months
to mine the nuggers.

My Favourite Frasier Channel 4, 9.00pm

Small Worlds

Kelsey Grammer has played the Seattle radio shrink Dr Frasier Crane for 14 years (introducing the character on Cheers) and this evening sees a celebration of the kind only television can do for its

BBC World Service, 3.15pm Cleo Paskal's six-part documentary is about what Cleo Paskal's six-part documentary is about what the world's smaller nations are doing to avoid the man-made environmental disasters that threaten the survival of their bigger brothers. I can't speak about the remaining instalments but I can tell you that episode one is popular sociology with a recognisably human face. The going can, however, sometimes get tough. The Maldives protect their vital tuna supplies by machine gunning the funnels of maranding Japanese vessels and then humiliating the captains and officers by making them parade through the streets. Litter-louish tourists visiting the Seychelles had better watch out. There are plans afoot to make them take their rubbish back with them when they fly home. with them when they fly home.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.00em Gilas Peterson 8.00 Emma B 11.00 Chris Moyles 3.00pm Scott Mills 6.00 Essential Selection 9.00 Hip Hop Anthems 2.00em Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (BEC)

12.30pm The Huddines Sorigbook 1,00 Etc Clapton: Stuss-breeker 2,00 Alex Laster 5,00 Des Lynem 7,00 Neit Diamond in Convecation 8,00 Ainstey Harricht's New Year Feast 9,30 Listen to the Bend: A Review of 1998 10,00 Racio 2 Young Musician 1998 Showcaea 11,00 Lynn Parsons

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

autumn Proops is Proops (i) 6-39 breaktask 9-00 Chair Hayes
12.00 The Midday News 1.00pms Pluscoe and Co. 3.00 The
Scottish Premier League, Motherwell v Klimernock 5.00 Drive
with Jonethan Legard and Lynn Bowles 7.00 News Extre with
Eric Doon 7.30 Alan Green's Sportenight 9.00 Park Ufe, Mark
O'Donnell Brids, out Irow Ron Noades runs Brentlord Footbell Defyn presents worldwide naws the first day of the lifth Test beb Sydney 4.00 Extra Time (r) ide news coverage. Plus, upd

VIRGIN

6.00 Wheels of Steel 10.00 Ners Williams 2.00 pts Nick Abbot 6.00 Wheels of Steel 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00 mm Paul Coyle

TALK RADIO

6.00mm Russell Grant's New Year Breakfast 9.00 Kets Lloyd 12.00 An Audience with Beiry Meritow 1.00pm The Sports Zone 8.00 An Audience with Tony Bennett (r) 6.00 Mike Allen 2.00mm Mike Dickin

New Year concert of music by the Strauss far

Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer star in a new comedy series (BBC2, 10.15pm)

own. We start with high profile stars from both sides of the Atlantic picking their favourite episodes, plus the choices of writers, producers, cast members, even the odd psychiatrist. Kelsey's own favourine (9.30pm) is the wonderful Our Father Whose Art Am't in Heaven — then there's a documentary on the making of the show (10pm) and the chance for viewers to vote for their favourine episode (10.40pm). After all this subthumping the evening ends in Cheers (11.10pm) with more classic one-liners from the good doctor, then a regular at that much-missed pub.

Bang Bang it's Reeves and Mortimer BBC2, 10.15pm

Thank goodness. Not that one has anything against Shooting Stars, but it did nend to be our hyperactive heroes to a desk and a (sort of) quiz format. Now, with one bound, they are free again to do what they do best. After a three-year absence from their mould-breaking sketch show Vic and Bob return with some old faces. folk singers Mulligan and O'Hare, Tom Fun and the Stotts are just some of them. But there's plenty that's new. Mr Her the Road Safety Woodpecker will be a permanent fixture and a docusoap called The be a permanent fixture and a docusoap called The Club with Vic as owner, bouncer and compere Kinky John is not to be missed. The supporting cast includes Charlie Higson and Morwenna Banks.

Klizabeth Cowley

Lullaby for an Insomniac Princess

Radio 4, 3.45pm

On radio there are some first-class readers of stories - and then there is Juliet Stevenson. She is in a class of her own. The same is true of Juliet Stevenson on stage, screen and on television. I remember, back in the 1980s, being asked by The Times to nominate my actress of the year. It took me all of three seconds to declare her name. I rejoice then that the first woman's voice to be heard reading a non-serialised story on Radio 4 on this, the first day of the new year is hers. And she has been given a story worthy of her. Marina Warner's Lullaby for an Insommiac Princess is about an unfortunate soul who, to quote Macbeth, is denied the "innocent sleep, sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleave of care". Peter Davalle in a class of her own. The same is true of Juliet sleave of care".

BEC WORLD SERVICE

S.00am The World Today 7,00 News 7,15 Off the Shelf Colombe 7,30 Music Review 8,00 News 8,10 Pause for Thought 8,15 Westhery 8,30 John Peel 9,00 News; (648 cnly) News in German 9,05 World Business Report Special 9,15 Early Versions 9,30 Speaking of English 9,45 Sports Round-Up 10,00 Newsdesk: 10,30 Assignment 11,00 Newsdesk: 11,30 Focis on Felth 12,00 News 12,25pris World Business Report Special 12,15 British Today 12,30 W86 Tales 12,45 Sports Round-Up, 1,09 Newshour 2,00 News 2,05 Outlook 2,30 Multitrack Alternative 3,00 News; (648 only) News in German 3,05 Focibal Extra 2,15 Small Worlds. See Choice 3,30 Science in Action 4,30 News 4,15 On You's Behalf 4,30 Insight; (648 only) News in German 4,45 Bhizin Today 5,00 Omnitus 5,30 World Business Report 5,45 Sports Round-Up 8,00 Newsdesk; 6,30 Focis On Feith; (648 only) News in German 7,00 News Summary 7,91 Outlook 7,25 Pause For Thought 7,30 Multitrack Alternative 8,00 Newshour 9,00 News 9,05 World Business Report Speciel 9,15 Bitain Today 9,30 People and Politics 10,00 Newsdesk 10,30 Insight 10,45 Sports Round-Up 11,00 Newsdesk 12,30 propie and Politics 10,00 Newsdesk 1,30 Small Worlds 1,45 Short Story 2,00 Newsdesk 1,30 Small Worlds 1,45 Short Story 2,00 Newsdesk 1,30 Small Worlds 1,45 Short Story 2,00 Newsdesk 2,30 People and Politics 3,00 Newsdesk 2,30 People and Politics 3,00 Newsdesk 2,30 People and Politics 3,00 Newsdesk 4,30 Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00em The Smooth Classics Rengover Cure. Selly Peterson presents releading music for New Year's day 8.00 Easier Brasidest. With Nick Balley 10.00 Dr Mark Porter's New Year Work Out. Music and resolutions to start the year 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones Introduces the most requested pieces of music 2.00pm Celebrity Rectals 8.00 Michael Mappir. Music, news and weather 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning kides off 1999 with two hours of easy listening 9.00 Evering Concert. Janeack (Sinfoniatta); Shostslawich (Planc Concerto No 2 in P.; Copland (Symptony No 3); Pavel (Bolero) 11.00 Marin at Night 2.00em Celebrity Rectals (7)

6.00em On Air with Stephenie Hughes
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Includes Chopin
(Fentasy-Impromptu in C sharp trainor, Op 66)
10.15 The New Year's Odly Concert Live from the
Golden Hall of Vienna's Musikverein. Srian Kay
introduces the Vienna Philharmonic's traditional
New Year concert of music by the Strauss tamily.

5.00 A Medieval Christmas Seasonal music
5.30 Music Rooms Has Netalis Wheen lost her
marbles in Stoka Newington?
6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Station Sistion
is loined by the BBC Phihamonic to perform
Bolcom (Symphony No 6) (10/10)
7.00 Cebaret Cocktadis (4/4)
7.30 Performance on 3 Prom 35, given on August 14.
Ruth Ziesak, soprano, Jadwiga Rappe, mezzo,
Philip Langridge, tenor, William White, bass, City of
Birmingham Symphony Chous and Orchestra
under Simon Rattle, Birtwhistle (The Triumph of
Time); Beethoven (Symphony No 9 in D) (f)
9.20 Postscript: The Shalespears Trade — Global
Shalespears (5/5)

9.20 Postscript: The Shakespeare Trade — Globel Shakespeare (5/5)
9.40 Yavgeri Klasin Another chance to hear the Russian planist Yavgeri Klasin's first solo rectal at the 1997 BBC Proms (r)
11.20 The Hannonic Series,
11.30 And His Mother Called Him Bill (3/3) (r)
12.00 Composer of the Weelc Bizet (r)
1.00 am Through the Night with Donald Macleod.
1.00 Baroque church music for Christmes from the new world 2.10 Sheius (Masonic Russ).
Music) 3.10 Granados (Spanish Dences, Op 37)
4.05 Haydn (Symphony No 11 in E list)

New Year concert of music by the Strauss family.

This year's guest conductor is Lorin Meazal 10.50
Nated Beauties. The first of two programmes in which Andrew Jelford examines handmade cigars 11.15 Concert, part two

12.35pm Telemann (Sonata in A minor for recorder, violin and continuo, Essercizii Musici). Performed by the Paliadien Ensemble

12.50 The Harmodic Series with Adrian Jack

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert The Cardinell's Musick performs English choral music written for the 16th-cartury duties of Annotel

2.00 The BBC Orchestres Uister Orchestra under Vernon Handley and Nicholas Braithwate, David Wilson-Johnson, baritone

3.50 The Harmonic Series

4.00 Mozart Voices Michael Oliver talks to Thomas Allen. Last in series

4.45 Music to Die For Jeanstte Winterson discusses Strause's Act 3 Trio from Der Rosenkavstier (8/6)

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today with Steve Peacock
6.00 Today introduced by Sue MacGrégor and
Whitred Robinson
9.00 Desert Island Discs Bob Monthouse looks back
on a lifethreis achievements (r)
9.45 (FM) Seriab Peter Pan and Wendy The final
part of the classic children's tale, by J.M. Barrie
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray
11.00 Summer Pastures Dylan Winter rides with
cowboys of the Pitrifork Ranch, Wyoming, whose
way of life is threatened by big-game hunters
11.30 The Gidest Member: The Awaterting of Rollo
Podmarsh New series. Maurice Denham stars as
the golf club veteran in P.S. Wodehouse's stories
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours John Wate
tackes more consumer concerns
12.00 (LW) News Headitines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One Presented by Guto Harri
1.30 Screen Test Brian Sibley chairs the second
semi-final of the life quiz, from the Cornerhouse
Cinema, Manchester
2.00 The Archers (f)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Secrets — Vandals The
last of the Canadian short stories by Alice Murro.
Liza's return to a childhood baunt rekindles
long-buried memories. With Buffy Davis, Rhonda
Millar and Adam Sims
3.00 Making History Roger Wilkes helps listeners
research their own historical mysteries.
3.30 Redicc Ten Powns About Sound Sean Street
talks to Charlotte Green and reade his sequence
of poems inspired by Radio 4
3.45 Lullaby for an insporance timble to select

of poems inspired by Radio 4: 3.45 Luttaby for an Insomntac Princess Marina Warner's story about a princess unable to se Read by Juliet Stevenson. See Choice

4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter explores the pittalis of rereading old fevourities (f)
4.30 The Message Alax Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Branwen Jeffreys and Niget Wrench
6.00 Stx O'Clock News
6.30 News Gutz of the Year Setirical review of the second half of 1998, with Jeremy Hardy, Shron Hoggart and the Times columnist Alan Coren
7.00 The Archera 7.15 Front Row The Nobel
Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney reads from his collected works and talks to Mark Cawson
7.45 Under One Hoof by Michale Herson (f)
8.00 Our Next Question Please? Jonathan Dantoleby looks back on a year of Any Questions?
8.45 Letter from America by Alstein Cooke
9.00 The Friday Pley: Where Three Roads Meet
Don Taylor's story about a vicar's crisis of faith.
Starting Michael N. Harbour, Karen Archer, Peter
Jeffrey, Frances Jeaser and Robin Sebestian (f)
10.00 The World Tonight Special with Suc Cemeron
10.45 Book at Bedtimer Pier Dahle Patricia Routedge reads The Way Up to Heaven, about a warring
Couple who reach breaking point. The last of time tales by Road Oahl
11.00 Late Night on At Late Tackde Sporting
conversation
11.30 Sporting Philaenthropists New series:

corversation
11.30 Sporting Philanthropists New series
Investigating the motives of big-hearted British
businessmen, beginning with Eddie Kukkundis,
unsung hero of the athletics world (1/3)
12.00 (FM) News 12.30 (FM) The Late Book: The
Hestrathrid Bassis Gavin Muir reads pert five to
Macrone Milis's story

Magnus Milis story

12.00 (LW) Test Match Special Australia v England
Coverage from Sydney of the first day's play in the
fifth Test

12.48 (FM) Shipping 1.00 (FM) As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 3, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.6; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1063; 1089;

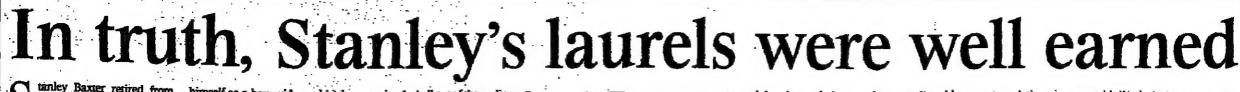
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S tanley Baxter retired from felevision in 1996. TIV offered us the next best thing fered us the next best thing to a new Christmas special in Stanley Baxter In Person, a rare interview with the very private comedian, and a one-hour clip-fest of his greatest moments.

Baxter belongs to that elite thes-

pian fraternity whose nostrils are so expressively wide and flared that they hardly need to act. Think of the sinister exposed septum of Lee Van Cleef in the spaghetti west-erns, or Kenneth Williams using his vast frontal cavities as in-yourface camp accessories. Baxter himself sports a pair of car-port size beauties, and yet, as in all aspects of his performances, he has used them sparingly and with preci-

He remained carefully private. and we learnt precious little about him, although he did provide a tantalising sketch of his mother's aspirations, and a wonderful image of

himself as a boy, wide-eyed at the cinema, munching marinalade he fumed, adding later that his and banana sandwiches out of his shows were "the last time when telsatchel. His marriage was referred to with respectful minimalism and there was no attempt to probe the psychology of his unsettlingly brilliant impersonations of female

His own quiet pride in his achievements was mirrored by the quiet, but completely sincere, appreciation of the celebrity contribu-tors. Billy Connolly, Robbie Coltrane, Stephen Fry, Lulu and Rory Bremner were all affectionately reverent, as if discussing the influence on their childhood of a muchloved uncle who had sadly passed on and could not be persuaded, de-spite their best efforts, to return from the dead."

Fry's admiration for Baxter's performances was actually making him crosser and crosser with the state of television today. "They wouldn't do it now. They just pat-

he fumed, adding later that his shows were "the last time when television could actually contain intelligence and wit and broad humour and delight and pleasure, all in the

t may well be true that such lavish sets and high produc-tion values are a thing of the past, and there is certainly more and more deeply patronising gar-bage passed off as light entertainment these days, but talented per-formers still get their slots, mercifully. The reason there is nobody like Stanley Baxter on television is that there is nobody like Stanley

The programme started 15 minutes before Rory Bremner's own New Year Special. The Greatest Rory Ever Told, on Channel 4. We saw Bremner present Baxter's Life-time Achievement Award at the Baftas and, like his hero's, his imREVIEW



Paul Hoggart

personations are often uncannily accurate. He is versatile and his material is unusually intelligent. You might think this would give the lie to Fry's jeremiad, but it doesn't, for the simple reason that it often isn't all that funny, raising crinkly smiles rather than joyous gullaws.

Bremmer definitely suffered from the comparison. If he wasn't so rich, talented and successful, you might almost feel sorry for him. At least Baxter didn't mean it, unlike the asserted Euro-dross on Naked Eurovision (BBC!), a look behind the scenes at last summer's Eurovision Song Contest in Bir-mingham. This was perfect docusoap material and would doubtless be signed up already if they didn't have to wait a year between filming epportunities.

Still, we had a camp star, in the Israeli transsemal winner Dana International (why is she named after an airport?. The resident nutter was Yannis, a disgruntled Greek composer: boorish, disruptive, straggly bearded and with a chip on his shoulder the size of the Elgin Marbles. But they were a sad lot and would have been much more entertaining played by Stanley Baxter.

It is a tribute to Stella Gibbons that any yarn in which a sophisticated, but hasically innocent, town child arrives to stay with morose.

compared to Cold Comfort Farm. Of course Gibbons's spoof only worked because she was parodying a genre which already had an ancient pedigree. The Orchard Walls, the second of The Ruth Rendell Mysteries (ITV), was so firmly planted in this soil that even though the creaking door and leering loony factor was applied with a light touch, it nevertheless all felt pretty formulaic.

variant of the theme is the A The Go-Berween scenario, in which the visitors find themselves unwittingly caught up in the dangerous, secret passions of the household. This story had that too as wartime evacuee Jenny (Honeysuckle Weeks) discovers the secret passion between the daughter-in-law of the house and a

dashing cad of a fighter pilot.
As the story is set in 1942, Jenny is a wide-eyed 16-going-on-12. Hon-

yet disturbing country relatives, is eysuckle Weeks (cutesy name, cutesy gall), on the other hand, is actually 19-going-on-24. This made her flirtation with the bounder from the Spitfire seem a lot more than the fantasies of an adolescent girl. and the attentions of the hornyhanded farm labourer rather less predatory than was perhaps intended. But she caught the air of awakening sensuality and baffled anxiety well enough.

The production was well-craftd, competently acted and goodlooking. There were even some vaguely intriguing psychological undertones and the odd sinister frisson. It just felt like going through the motions - yet another murder mystery in yet another house in the country with yet more tangled relationships. Shortly after the last main character had been introduced, I realised I couldn't care less what happened to any of them. Now if Stanley Baxter had taken all the roles . . .

6.30am Children's BBC: Teletubbles (7690307) 6.55 Postman Pat (2909710) 7.10 Arthur (2320975) 7.35 Brambly Hedge (3216197) 8.00 Yogl's Treasure Hunt (5028804) 8.20 Blue Peter: Magic Moments (3485541) 8.50 Taz-Mania (7708642) 9.15 911 Live in Malaysia (686062)

9.40 The Fasne Game: New Year Spectal (2/2) (7) (5246130) 10.05 Teletubbles (1543536) 10.35 Rotten Ratiph (5275555) 11.00 The Little Rascals (1994) Premiere. A gang of mischievous children set out to sabotage their Irlend's biossoming romance, and prepare for an important go-kart race. Children's comedy, with appearances by Mel Brooks, Whoopi Goldberg and Daryl Hannah. Directed by Penelope Spheeris (1) (8795555)

12.20pm Wipeout (1) (4836555) 12.45 Laughing for Ages (6/6) (1) (298975) 1.15 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (94989739)

1.25 Neighbours Hannah and Paul are strapped for cash (T) (60685623) 1.50 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (1968)
Classic musical children's adventure about an eccentric inventor who rescues an old car from the scrap heap and gives it magical bowers. Dick Van Dyke and Lioner Jeffries star. Directed by Ken-

Hughes (1) (29987536) 4.05 CHAICE Are You Sitting Comfortably? A look back at some of the nation's favourite children's programmes (7) (2626888)

4.45 Neighbours Hannah and Paul are strapped for cash (r) (1) (1022517) 5.10 News; Regional News; Weether (T)

(1) (1983) An obsessive cop finds who soon gives him a run for his money. Fast-moving comedy, starring James Belushi, Mel Harris, Ed O'Nelli and Kevin Tighe. Directed by Rod Daniel (1) (95719284)

from Morocco (1) (9997)

- 124 1 14

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All the second s

The second leaves

8.00 Apollio 13 (1995) Pramiere. Oscar-winning, fact-based drama, starting Torn Hanks as Jim Lovell, the leader of the lit-fated 1970 Apollo 13 moonshot. The mission is plagued by a series of mechanical problems which cause the spacecraft to abandon its landing and put the lives of the crew in danger. With Kevin Bacon, Bill Paston, Ed Harris and Gary Sinise, Directed by Ron Howard (T)

10.15 News; Regional News; Weather (T)

10.35 Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) The madcap team return to weak havoc on board a space shuttle. Disaster spoof, staming Robert Hays, Julie Hagerty and William Shatner, Directed by Ken Finkleman (T) (1251791)

11.55 Fletch Lives (1989) Comedy sequel, starring Chevy Chase as a reporter and master of disguise who inherits a mansion and gets entangled in a murder mystery. Directed by Michael Ritchle (T) 1.25am Weather (4278444)

1.30 BBC News 24 (1815802)

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6.00am Fil.M: A King in New York (1957) Satirical Charle Chaplin comedy (1) (48931284) 7.45 Fil.M: Days of Toriks and Laughter (216791) 9.15 Periodity Frank (7611739) 9.20 FILM: Knights of the Round Table (28712265) 11.10 Happy New Year (7935062) 11.15 New Year's Day Concert from Vierina

Happy New Year (7935062) 11.15 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna (5779623) 12.35pm The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Staying Alive — The Body in Balance (547604)
1.35 Cambridge Folk Festival Includes performances by Eddi Reader, the Levellers and Eliza Caritry (4158642)
2.15 The Shealitiels Tracing a family history across the globe (T) (410265)
3.50 The Robe (1953) Religious epic, staming Richard Burton as a Roman certurnor assigned to oversee Christ's crucifidon, Directed by Henry Kosair (T) (28185081):
6.00 Poppea After Poppea makes it more

Directed by Henry Kossir (1) (28185081):

6.00 Poppea. After Poppea makes it, more than clear she's out of Ottone's react; he turns his attentions elsewhere (947178).

5.40 Living UK Confidential: A Leviathan Special One off special examining the truth behind major political events of 1968 (526791).

7.20 Rea: the Runt Tipe playreates come under the powerful influence of TV evengelist Johnny Saveby (1) (1) (800826).

7.30 University Challenge The tabloids take on the broadsheets in a press special. Chained by Jeremy Paimar (1) (5).

8.00 Gardening, from Scratch Two Helen Yerma Inspires ansatzur enthusiasts. (1) (1) (8888).

(T) (5888) 8,30 Gardeners' World Alan Titchmeish looks back on highlights of the 1998

series (1) (7623)

9.00 The New Year Armistice Safricel hilarity with Armando Jernucci and the Jean (2/2) (1) (533975)

9.35 Rex the Runt Rex accidentally turns himself into spaghetti (1) (281623)

9.45 The Young Ones The students learn their house is to be demolished. Cornedy, starring Filk Mayalf, Christopher

(f) (1) (196178)

10.15 Bang Bang, It's Recves and Mortimer New series Vic and Bob return to the algebon show format (T) (188159) 10.45 Young Guns Go for M New series, examining the sounds of the 1980e (T)

(818739) 11.25 The Boy George Video Diary Culture Club's self-out tour (1) (172604)



11.45 Tales from the Par Side 2 includes A leaste kicking deer which terrifies hunters (659333) 12.35am Siders Zombies menage the team

1.20 Stiders Wade becomes fescinated by a vampire rock band (T) (5540192) 2.05 Weather (9927463) 2.10 Close

5.55am ITN Morning News (7248401) 6.00 GMTV (6193826)

9.25 CITV: Percy the Park Keeper (6875994) 9.55 Rocky and the Dodos (8652284) 10.10 Brilliant Creatures (6665449)

10.30 The Cantentille Ghost Adaptation of Oscar Wilde's tale Ian Richardson, Celia Imrie, Sarah-Jane Potts and James D'Arcy star (r) (1) (27536) 12.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (T) (78130) 12.30pm (TN News; Weather (T) (17987710) 12.40 Shortland Street Lutu gets a new inend

(3843517) 1.10 Seen Connery Close Up (T) (5868352) 1.55 Once Upon a Forest (1993) Animated ighting to save their enchanted woodland home. Directed by Charles Grosvenor (T) (7108265)

3.15 Far from the Madding Crowd Bath-sheba weds Sergeant Troy after a whirtwind romance, but her happiness is cut short (2/2) (r) (T) (344333)

5.15 ITN News; Weather (T) (5886913)
5.25 Black Beauty (1994) Premiere. Lavish adaptation of Anna Sewell's classic story. With David Thewis, Jim Carter, Eleanor Bron and Sean Bean. Directed by Caroline Thompson (T) (95704352) 7.00 Do-it-Yoursetf, Mr Bean The hapless bachelor tries his hand at DIY. Rowan

Alkinson stars (r) (T) (6994)
7.30 Coronation Street Sally's life hangs in the balance (T) (81) 8.00 Who Wants to Be A Millionaire? New series. Chris Tarrant hosts the ultimate big-prize game show (1) (5642)



Sean Connery enjoys his fifth outing as James Bond, 907 (8.30pm)

8.30 You Only Live Twice (1967) James Bond fakes his own death to fool enemy agents that he is no longer a threat then gets sent on a mission to Japan where his old adversary Biofeld has entered the snace rate as part of a bid for world domination. With Sean Connery, Donald Pleasence, Semand Lee, Lots Maxwell and Desmond Liewellyn. Directed by Lewis Gilbert (1) (99454772) 10.35 ITN News; Weather (T) (825159) 10.44 HTV Weather (192333)

10.45 Allen (1979) A cargo spacecraft inacvertently picks up a malevolent life-form which proceeds to staughter the crew members Sci-fi chiller, starring Stycumey Weaver. Directed by Ridley Scott (T) (66338401)

12.55am Greatest Goals World Cup highlights

2.05 Club@vision Dence music (7483531) 2.50 Stormy Weathers (1992) Comedy
adventure about a temale private eye
who stumbles on an underhand plot
involving the Government. Cybbi
Shepherd stars. Directed by Will

4,25 Entertainment Now (r) (7729442) 5.25 Coronation Street (r) (T) (1118173)

12.40-1.10pm Dinosaura (3843517) 5.20 The Making of Dr Dolittle (5470840-5.40-6.55 Cartoon Time (5027482)

WEST COMPANY

As HTV West except:

12.40-1.10pm Emmerdale (3843517)

As HTV West except. 12.40-1.10pm Emmerdale (384351?) 5.25-5.55 Bugs Bunny (1118173)

As HTV West except: 12.40-1.10pm Dinosaurs (3843517)

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (r) (21162791) 7.00 For Better, For Worse (r) (47335642)
7.30 The Magic School Bus (r) (47381449)
8.00 The Big Breakfast (35002826) 10.00 The
Bigger Breakfast; Saved by the Bell
(35005913) 10.30 Earle, Indiana (f)

(35005913) 10.30 Eerte, Indiana (1) (16981284) 11.00 Madison (24249352) 11.30 Bebyton 5 (1) (27907739) 12.25pm Granpa (1) (67044997) 12.55 Planed Plant (1) (69641438) 1.25 Racing from Cheltenham Alastair Down introduces the day's racing action, comprising the 1.35 Steel Plate Trial Juvenile Novices Hurdie, 2.10 Total Handicap Hurdie, 2.65 Manuface, Chapter and Hurdie, 2.45 Marchpole Handicap Chase and Hune, 245 Marchole Handcap Chase and the 3.20 Sporting Index Select Chase (Cross Country Chase). Commentary by John Francome, Graham Goode, Simon Holt and John Deksey (64248975) 3.40 Filtnen-to-One: Grand Final (1) (60145178) 4.30 Planed Plant (23100994) 5.30 Countdown (T) (56553888) 6.00 Newyddion 5 (T) (64241842) 6.05 Heno (D) (4319840) 7.00 February Cham (T) (I) (13198807) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (I) (25965333) 7.25 Cyngerdd Caneuon Tony Ac Alonse Highlights of the extravaganza from North Wales Theatre, Llandudno, where some of Wales's top entertainers paid tribute to the classic songs of Tony and Aloma. Hosted by

Aled Jones (10296772) 8.15 Ceta Gwlad Da dones visits brothers, Hubert and Tommy Roberts from Fierm y Gop, Trelawnyd in Flintshire (T) (11951265) 8.45 Newyddion (T) (36810130) 9.00 My Favourite Frasier Sec Choice (24236888) 9.30 Frasier's Favourite Frasier (t) (T) (38954246) 10.00 Brookide lactus Sussembland Indexemblant to the future Jacqui, Susannetrand Lindsey look to the future as the Millennium Club finally opens its doors. Romance beckons for Mike and Rachel, while Romance beckers for Mike and Hachel, while Ryen goes on the warpath and Niamh has a sombre start to 1999 (1) (54421178) 10.35 My Fevourite Frasier: The Frasier Story (42170542) 11.15 Frasier (11960913) 11.45 Cheers (1) (20926913) 12.20am FiLM: The Man with Two Brains (1983) Brilliant surgeon Steve Martin escapes his along marriage by fulling a law earner which time with a human talling in love again — this time with a human brain (voiced by Stasy Spacek). Everything goes swimmingly until his attempts to find a "home" for his new partner cause confusion and calamity. Farcical comedy, also staming Kathleen Turner, David Warner and Paul Benedict (1) (37523647) 1.55 FILM: All of Me (1984) Half of a successful lawyer's body becomes possessed by the spirit of a headstrong dead woman in the wake of a disastrous supernatural experiment. Correcy, starring Steve Martin, Lity Tomin and Victoria Tennant (T) (47607585) 3.35 FILM: The Man Who Changed His Mind (1936) Vintage thatie starting Bons Karloff as a mad scientist convinced he can transplant the mond of one person into another. With Arna Lee and John Loder (32048735) 4.50 Diwedd

5.55 Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp

6.00 Sesame Street (69604) 7.00 For Better, For Worse (r) (25197) 7.30 The Magic School Bus (1) (62684)

8.00 The Big Bresidest (77962) 10.00 The Bigger Breakdast; Saved by the Bell (87449)

10.30 Eerie, Indiana (1) (T; 185420) 11.00 Madison (T) (7081) 11.30 Babylon 5 (1) (7577130)

12.25pm Explosive Dance (1076517)
1.25 Racing from Chettenham The 1.35
Steel Plate Trial Juvenile Novices' Hurdle,
2.10 Tote Handicap Hurdle, 2.45 Marchpole Handicap Chase and the 3.20 Sporting Index Select Chase (Cross Country Chase) (70567062)

3.50 Fifteen-to-One: Grand Final (1) (1) (2995975) 4.30 Countdown (T) (1010772) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (4121130)

5.30 Frank Sinstra in Japan in concert in Japan (r) (T) (1015062) 6.50 News Summary (T) (814994) 6.55 On the Buses (1971) Feature-length

Version of the vintage sitcom in which Reg Varney reprises his role as put-upon driver. Stan. Butter. Directed by Harry Brooks (T) (42766246) 8.30 Brookside The Millennium Club finally opens its doors (T) (2791)



Keisey Grammer stars in an evening voted to Frasier (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE My Favourite Frasier Choose a classic episode of the

9.30 Fresier's Favourite Fresier Martin buys Fresier an expensive work of art to repay his hospitality — but unfortunately the gesture is not appreciated (r) (1) (14420) 10.00 The Frasier Story The early days of the hit show (T) (745159)

10.40 Frasier Viewers' tavounte episode (T) 11.10 Cheers The guys go on a fishing trip (T)

11.45 The Man with Two Brains (1983)
Britiant surgeon Steve Martin escapes his airing marriage by falling in love with a human brain (voiced by Sissy Spacek) Comedy also staining Kathleen Turner. Directed by Carl Reiner (1) (988888) 1.20am All of Me (1984) Half of a lawyer's

body becomes possessed by the spirit of a lawyer's body becomes possessed by the spirit of a headstrong dead woman. Comedy, with Steve Mariin and Lily Tomlin Datecled by Carl Reiner (T) (779753)

3.00 The Mari Who Changed His Mind (1936) Thriller, starring Bons Karloff as a mad scientist Directed by Robert Stevenson (9590956)

4.15 Dr Bull (1933) A country doctor contends with small-minded squabbles as he lights illness in the community Directed by John Ford (7759662)

6.00am The Wind In the Willows

6.20 Roobarb (n. (50926587) 6.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (7039623) 7.00 Wimzie's House (r) (9394284)

7.30 Milkshake! :4558307) 7.35 Havakazoo (r. (9025197) 8.00 George of the Jungle (r) (1465688)
8.30 Lassie: The New Beginning (TVM)
1978) Carine adventure, staming John
Reilly Directed by Don Chaffey

(56131265) 10.05 My Story (3425555) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2415081) 11.10 Leeza (n. (2302807)

12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (1468975) 12.30pm Family Affairs Liam leaves town, (r) (T) 5 News Update (9234604) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Maggie

goes on the warpath (T) (9393555) 1.30 Wowfabgroovy (9233975) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6654975) 2.30 Football Review of the Year: Part One Highlights from the Carlsberg Trophy, Uefa Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and Euro 2000 qualifiers (9359284)

6.00 100 Per Cent Ouc (5515284) 6.30 Family Affairs Annie drops a bombshell, (T) 5 News Update (1197710)



Comedy with Bill Murray, Harok Ramis and Dan Aykroyd (7.05pm)

7.05 Ghostbusters (1984) Eccentric scen-trsis Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis try to prevent the destruction of New York. Biockbusting supernatural comedy, also staming Sigourney Weaver and Rick Moranis. Directed by Ivan man (T): 5 News Update (95095468)

9.00 Duggan - Death in Paradise (1997) A detective finds his hopes of a peaceful holiday shattered when he is drafted in to a local investigation into the falling of a

a local investigation into the folling of a young woman. Murder mystery, staming John Bach and Fiona Mogndge. Directed by Yvonne Mackay (T) (12605772) 10.50 Melinda's Big Night in With guests Anthea Turner and 911 (6307505) 11.35 Compromising Situations A hospital patient receives saucy grifs (1) (560371)

12.10am Russ Mayer's Finders Keepers, Lovers Weepers (1968) A robbery et a go-go bar goes badly awry and all the crooks involved get their comeuppance. Staming Anne Chapman. Directed by Russ Meyer (403/04043) 1.30 Sarah T: Portrait of a Teenage
Alcoholic (TVM 1976) A young gar
banies against her addiction to drink
while strugging to cope with her parents'

divorce. Slarring Linda Blair. Directed by Richard Donner (1690983) 3.15 Wild Beauty (1946) Drama about an inclian boy tighting to save the horse he has befine noed Directed by Wallace Fox (9654208)

4.15 Night Stand (33705173) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3321956) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8053591)

For further listings see SKY MOVIEMAX Saturday's Vision SKY 1

8.00am Earthworm Jim (22975) 8.30 Count Ducleus (21945) 9.00 The Simpalora (45858) 9.00 Carried and Princips (49150). 10.00 Kene: Warrior Princips (65468) 11.00 The New Adventures of Superman (4604) 12.00 m The Orpor Winfrey Show (62081) 1.00 Jenny Jones (48401) 2.00 Safty Jessy Rephael (60230) 3.00 Sarah: Surviving Life (77449) 4.00 Guithy (63284) 5.00 Sara Track Voyager (5807) 6.00 Married — With Children (6401) 6.30 French (5351) 7.00 French (6401) 6.30 French (5255) 8.00 King of the Hall (5394) 8.30 Third Rock from the Sun (4791) 9.00 EN (94804) 10.00 Hold (5404) Ho 8.00am Earthworm Jim (22975) 8.30 Count

SKY BOX OFFICE Stor's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0900-500286 SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) Face/Off (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)

The state of the s SNY BOX UPPICE 2 (IRRISPONDER EV)
Home Atone 3 (1997)
SNY BOX OFFICE 3 (Irrisponder 59)
George of the Jungle (1997)
SNY BOX OFFICE 4 (Irrisponder 59)
Entitle—1 Transference Fethers' Day (1997) FILMFOUR 6.00pm A Room with a View (1985) (7640975) 8.00 Bites (1994) (95844062) 9.46 The Cuter (9310401) 10.00 Bitter Moon (1992) (79016097) 12.20pm Four Widdings and a Papered (1994) (1204209) 2.15 Wind's Bailing Gilbert Grape? (1993) (8054378) 4.10 Gragory's Ght (1980) (4745578) 8.00 Close

SKY PREMIER SKY PREMIER

8.00mm A Charige of Heart (1897)
(73517) 8.00 The Incredible Journey
(1963) (26352) 10.00 The Witches (1990)
(52004) 12.00pm A Charige of Heart
(1997) (1897) 2.00 The horredible
Journey (1963) (1991) 4.00 Julies
Journey (1963) (1991) 4.00 Julies
(1997) (1051) 6.00 The Witches (1997)
(52509) 8.00 Fierre-Crestore (1997)
(52509) 8.00 Fierre-Crestore (1997)
(52509) 12.40em Diabolique (1996)
(53583975) 12.40em Diabolique (1996)
(35683975) 12.40em Diabolique (1996)
(306246) 2.20 Rough Magic (1996)
(606869) 4.10 Julies (1997) (563109)

(DARGOO) - 10 Marie Carlos Car

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SKY MOVIEMAX

8.08am Vanishing Point (1996) (5046)
7.30 Situs Rodeo (1996) (33772) 9.00

Diplorers (1985) (15246) 11.00 Godzillava Gigen (1972) (73052) 1.00pm Store
Rodeo (1972) (73052) 1.00pm Store
(1985) (3023) 5.00 Vanishing Point
(1985) (3023) 5.00 Vanishing Point
(1986) (31623) 7.00 Připrisv 11609 7.30

UK Top 10 (1853) 8.00 Actori Histore
Amold Schwerzenegger (4452) 8.30 Movie
Magic: Body Building (9159) 9.00 Shadow
Conspiracy (1997) (45978401) 10.45
Hidden Agenda (1990) (3577440)
12.35am Title Presidio (1980) (357440)
12.35am Title Presidio (1986) (352337) SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Chimplen (1949) (8397888) 6.00 The Pink Parther (1964) (7759401) 8.00 The Nutry Professor (1963) (7752401) 10.00 Medigan (1963) (186250) 11.45 Chal (1965) (2941888) 12.5sen Damiera Come II (1978) (8396208) 3.15 Holywood Had of Farie: Burt Laricacter (5226208) 8.45 The Yellow Canary (1943)

9.00pm Show Boat (1936) (40,09710) 11.00 Singin' in the Rain- (1985) (216)1536) (1,00ap Bandwagot (1985) (216)2603 (3,00 Soven Brides for Seven Brothers (1984) (34975228) 5.00 Closs SKY SPORTS 1

8.00em Super League 7.00 Sports Centre 8.00 Wrestling 8.00 Futbol Mundel 9.30 Sports Daths: New Year Special 12.30pm Football Special: Goals and Sloopers 2.00 Live Scotlish Football 5.00 Soving Fights of 1998 9.00 Sports Patter New Year Special 11.00 Sportsh Football 12.30pm 8cong Fights of 1998 3.30 Wrestling 5.30 H2O SKY SPORTS 2

8,00am Fish TV 7.00 Aerobics 7.50 League Review 8.30 What A Weekend 9.00 Fish TV. 10.00 The Rugby Cath 11.00 for Hockey 1.30am Super League 2.30 Fish TV 3.30 Trans World Sport 4.30 What A Weekend 5.00 Love Dante: World Commonship 11.00 H2O 11.30 Live International Cather SKY SPORTS 3 12.00pps Trans Woold Sport 1.00 Fish TV 2.00 Figure Stelling 4.00 The Rugby Club

\$.00 Survivel of the Placet \$.30 World Sport Special 8.00 Wild Sports \$.30 H20 7.00 Motorsyching 8.00 Figure Skating 18.00 Westling 12.00ess Close EUROSPORT 7,30em Extreme Sports 8.30 Raby 10.00 7.30em Externé Sports 8.30 Hay 10.00 Sichumping 11.16 Live Women's Alpine Sking 12.45pm Football 1.45 Martel Arts 3.30 Women's Alpine Sking 4.30 Sichumping 8.30 Bloopers 7.30 Motorsports 8.30 Ferrire 9.30 Patry 10.00 Ten-Pts Bowling 11.00 Externe Sports 12.00em Relly 12.30 Close UK GOLD ...

7.00em Crossneds 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The 8.8 9.00 The 55 9.30 Pade and Projution 10.30 Angele 11.00 Deles 11.55 Neghbours 12.25pm East-Enders 1.00 Profe and Projutice 2.00 Deles 2.55 The 86 3.25 The 84 3.56 Dates 2.55. The bit 3.55 into the bit 5.55 into

GRANADA PLUS

6.00mm Within These Walls 7.00 On the Busse 7.30 The Ferm Street Gang 8.00 That's My Boy 8.30 Second Thoughts 9.00 Cleasic Coronelion Street 8.30 Emmerciale Classic Cornetion Street 9,30 Emmercials 10.00 this something 11.00 Havai Pro C 12.00pm; Classic Cornelion Street 12.30 Emmarcials 7,00 Nearest and Dearest 1.30 Nearshing 2.00 this pomething 3.00 The Love Boat 5:00 Havail Pive 0 6.00 The Polipsishness 8:00 The Love Boat 10.00 Lokers Wild, 19.30 , 1049s Wild 11.00 Graneda Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT [CABLE] 5.56pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Girdlock 6.00 London Bridge 6.30 Rising Damp 7.00 Boon 6.00 Blue Heaters 8.00 Love Hunts 10.00 That's Love 10.50 The Screen 11.00 PLM: Shood Sport plate Dick Francis Blood Sport) (TVM 1969) 1.00pm Tales of the Unsepating? 1.30 Tales of the Unsepating? 6.44 Policy

FOX KIDS NETWORK 6.00am Power Rangers Turbo 6.38 Power Rangers Turbo 7.00 Mortel Kombol 7.25 Octop and the Codinasches 7.30 Donkey Ivong County 6.00 Goosebumps 8.25 Sam and Max 8.35 Specimen 9.00 X-Man 9.25 Fantacitic Four 9.50 The Incodo DISNEY CHANNEL 6.00mm Bear in the Bry Blue House 6.25 Calenty Toons 6.35 Gunns Bears 7.00 Cleanty Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 Timon and Pumber 8.00 101 Deliniquens 8.26 Classo



Argok a.15 Ned's Next 8.32 Rocess 9.45
Pepper Arm 10.00 Boy Meets Wood 10.30
Smitt Guy 11.00 Teen Argel 11.30 Flach
Forward 12.00pm Boug 12.30 Dinessurs
1.00 FRUM: Mapped Transaums Inhand
(1996) 2.35 New Adventures of Winnie Tre
Pools 3.00 The Libit Memped 3.30 Timon
and Brothes 3.45 Till Delmaters 4.10 end Pumbas 3.45 101 Deineters 4.19 Hercules: The TV Show 4.40 Art Actach 5.00 Herouse: The TV Show 4.40 Art Acach 5.00 Shart Guy 5.50 Recess 6.45 Popper Arm 6.09 The Worder Years 8.30 Boy Mees: World 7.50 Honey, I Shrunk the Krds. The TV Show 7.50 Classic Foors 8.00 FTLM: Borrowed Hearts (1897) 8.30 Hone Improvement 10.00 Dinosaurs 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Touched by an Angel 12.00em Class

Cocknaches 19.56 The Mouse and The Monster 11.06 Eet Strangorus 11.30 De with Loue 11.55 Home is Bret 12.05 pm Sam and Max 12.30 Donk Kong County, 1.00 Mongh. The New Activities of Jurgit Book 1.25 Ace Vernuan 1.50 Spidermat. 2.15 K-Men 2.40 Famusic Four 3.05 The Incredible Hull. 1.20 Roy and Lisa's Eig Ride 3.35 Horial Kombar 4.00 Spidermat. 4.25 Mongh. The New Advances of Jurgit Book. 4.50 Home to Ref. 5.00 Gooseburgs 5.25 Esse. Indiant. The Other Demension 5.60 Cogy and the Octowacties 5.35 Donley Kong County, 6.26 Sam and Max 6.50 Fee! San-agot to 7.00 Coso.

NICKELODEON

5.00sm Francis Rock 6.30 Muppel Schats 7.00 Kenan and Kel 1.30pm The Journey of Allen Stronge 2.00 The Secret Work of Alex Mock 2.30 Kenath and Kel 3.00 Canassa Explains it All 3.30 Kelstani 4.00 Canassa Explains it All 3.30 Kelstani 4.00 Canassa Kanan and Kel 6.00 Sabrins it is Tearrage Witch 6.30 The Journey Of Allen Samage 7.70 Cites 10.15 Casper 10.30 Oggy and the 7.00 Clust

7.00am Hotpicas 7.30 USA High 8.00 Seed by the Bet The New Class 8.30 Harg Time 8.00 Seed by the Bet Westing Time 8.00 Seed by the Bet Westing II Las Vegas 11.00 Seed Valley righ 11.30 Ready of No. 12.00pm The Rech Peace of Bet-Ar 12.30 in Bet House 1.00 On A Missen 1.30 Smart Hits Poll Window Fram 1988 3.00 Seed by the Bet The Less Class 2.30 USA High 4.00 The Peach Proce of Bet-Ar 4.30 in the House 5.00 Sector by the Bet The New Class 5.30 Seed wide, High 8.00 Harg Time 6.30 May as Games and Wides 7.80 USA High 8.45 That a 1-b 12.00pm Close 4.45 That a 1-b 12.00pm Close 1.45 Ata: a : to 12.00am Close CHALLENGE TV

The Substitute of the Indian Substitute of Indian Indian Substitute of Indian Indian Substitute of Indian Prough the reynole 2.00 Karacke Challenge 2.30 Femay Fortunes 3.00 Endurance UK 3.30 Stockbucker 4.00 Frager to Challenge 4.30 Gas Us a Que 5.00

BRAVO

8.00pm Real Stones of the Highest Patrol 6.36 Suchido 9.00 LAPD 9.30 Cops 10.00 Scheme Champtonship Westing 10.30 Scary Ser 11.00 FILM: Matural Born Killers (1994) 1.15mn FiLM: Matural Born Killers (1994) 1.15mn FiLM: Magail Heart (1987) 5.30 Fieally Stones 6.00 Copp. PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7,00pm Cheless 7.30 Desmond's 8.80 Researce 8.30 Just Shoot Me 8.00 Cycli 9.30 Semied 10.00 Filter Mystlic Plaza (1989) 12.00pm Lag Night with Band Letterman 1.00 Tex 1.30 The Crist 2.00 Dr. Kaz 2.30 Spap 3.00 Wings 3.30 Narration 4.00 Close THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: Spen-MIDNIGHT ONLY 8.00mm Signangs 9.00 Battlestar Galactica 10.00 Quantum Leap 11.00 Dark Shadows

11.30 The Ray Bradoury Theater 12.00 pm
The Twight Zone 12.30 The Twight Zone
1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of
the Unexpected 2.00 Miracles 3.00
Battlester Galactica 4.00 Amazing Stores
4.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles 3.00
Sophings 6.00 The Ray Bradoury Theater
6.30 New Afred Hischools 7.00 Quantum
Leap 8.00 Amazing Stores 6.30
Highlander The Raven 9.30 The Hurget
10.00 Fillate Flash Gordon (1980)
12.00am Fillat. Heavy Metal (1981) 1.45
Sc-Foots 2.00 The Guyer 2.30 100 Years
of Homer 3.00 The Twight Zone 3.30 Day
Shadows 4.00 Close Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE 6.00em Australia's Strangest Home Improvements 9.25 The Home and Lexure

4,00pm Res Huni Fishing Adventures 4.30 Water's World 5.00 Connections 2 o. James Burke 5.30 Jurgesica 6.00 Arenal 9.30 Support 10.00 Zulu Mersengers 10.30 Exact and Gurs 11.00 The Golden Gats 11.30 Time to Cut 12.00em Myths of Manying The Flood 1.00 Connections 2 by James Butho 1.50 Ancient Warrors 2.00 Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Wik Sandraines 12.30 The Blue Wilderness 1.00 Animal Doctor 1.30 Auctralia Wild 2.00 Gittale Rescue 2.30 Harman/Mauro 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jook Hanna's Zoo Life 4.30 Vincete SOS 5.00 Pc: Rescuo 5.30 Australia Vivid 6.00 5.00 Pci Recous 5.30 Australia Weld 6.00 The Nies Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Lasse 7.00 Redictonery of the World Marqueset Islands, 8.00 Annuel Doctor 8.30 Annuel Doctor 8.30 Annuel Toutor 10.30 Emergency Vots 10.30 Emergency Vots 12.00em Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm The Shark Files: Shork Attack Files 8.00 The Shark Files: Legends of the Killer Sharks 9.00 The Shark Files: Shark Shootes: 10.00 The Shark Files: Operation Shark Anack 11.00 The Shark Files: Sharks of the Red Triangle 12.00em The Shark Files: Sharks of Pirate Island

4.00pm Battletine Burma 4.30 Victory at Sea. The Turky Short 5.00 Derey Sea Exploration 6.00 Hidden Cries of the Emissions 7.00 Future Vicupens 7.30

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE] 9.00mm Food Nework Darly 9.30 Food to: Trought 10.00 First Taste 10.30 Within-Thomson Cooks 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 Coxon's ratchen Cologe 12.00pm Food Network Dely 12.30 Newman Medic 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 An Umbrian Appen 2.00 Cap't Stand the Heat 2.30 Food Helwork Crain 3.00 For Botter Viorce 3.30 Coron : Frichen College 4 New Chels on the Block 4.30 Ter Brandey's Country hischen 5.00 Cluse

LIVING

6.00 m Dg and Alabella Nursery Rivmed 6.10 Almed J Kaus 6.30 Tay and Crew 78 6.35 Pecks Dot Shorts 6.50 See How They Grew 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Protector Bubble 7.30 Castou 7.35 Bug Act 7.55 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barrey, and Fresch 8.25 Polks Dot Shorts 8.35 Tay and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 8.00 Inc Roccanne Short 9.50 Pre Jerry Springer Show 10.40 Michael Cole 11.30 The Heat 4 Cin 12.00pm Special Babber 12.30 Prescue 311 1.00 Ready, Steaty, Cook 1.35 Can'i Cook Won't Cook 2.16 The Jerry Springer Show 3.00 Fillish: People Will Talir (1951) 5.00 Beyond Belef Fact or Fiston 6.35 Can'i Cook Won't Cook 6.10 The Jerry Springer Show 7.00 Rescue 911 7.30 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiston 6.36 Can'i Cook Won't Cook 6.10 The Jerry Springer Show 7.00 Rescue 911 7.30 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiston 6.00 Myrder Call 9.00 Fillish Buried Secrets (1996) 11.30 See Life Down Under 12.00am Ciose ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time 6.00 Sony Men Long 6.30 Mest Mad Show 7.00 Fath 7.30 News. 8.00 Greomta Anna 8.30 Saseeb 9.00 Admar 10.00 Annors 11.00 Zaile Ka Salar 11.30 Parampara 12.00pm FILM: Handi Movie: Baseras 3.00 Kaachi Dhoop 3.30 Top Ten 5.30 Amana: 6.00 Knock functi Top Ign 5-30 America 600 micro - nono-kain His 6-30 Zire and You Special 7-00 Choomic Buddoor 8.00 News 8.30 Actinued 8.00 Mort the Stars 12.00 m News 12.30 Fil-Ba-Fig 1-00 X-Zone 2.00 Fil.Nt: Hindi Moviet Parampara



PENSIONS 36 Hewitt's tough line as IFAs face fines

BUSINESS

Solitaire on traders' day of the Triffids

MARKETS 38 Michael Clark tells how Colt cantered home



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY JANUARY 1 1999

scene in the science fic-tion novel The Day of the Triffids when a man, blind-folded and hospital-bound, awakes to discover that what should be a normal Thursday sounds, from the eerie lack of traffic noise outside, more like

a quiet Sunday. a quiet Sunday.
Yesterday was Triffid Day
in the City. No giant vegetables bowling down Threadneedle Street — but on a day when the City should have been open for business, or at least for frantic last-minute preparations for the birth of the euro, few were at work -and the signs were that they were merely going through

most every building, yet by midday the pubs and wine bars were fuller than the average office. The banks were open, the shops were trading. Was it Thursday, or was it

In the macho culture of the financial community, of course, long hours must be seen to be worked whether or not the actual minutes are productive. So institutions will have felt they had to field staff. This was despite the du-bious decree from the Stock

confusion surrounding the euro-Nativity meant that all equities trading should termi-nate at noon on Wednesday.

Then there were the Nativity preparations themselves. se provided justification for fielding further teams of ghost workers. But the fact is that any serious structural preparations not done by now nave been left too late.

The computer software will already be in place. The biggest job left will be to convert the existing balances in the so-



Martin Waller reports from a party snubbed by the host in a half-empty Square Mile

This can only take place now the currency conversion

an estimated 30,000 people will be at work in the Square Mile today and at the weekend, about a tenth of the norhave been in yesterday, but the mass of the conversion work will be done nearer to

Monday's start of trading. So there was an air of unreality in the Square Mile, a place half described and half full of people, many of whom had no real idea why they were there. One institution admitted that were of its and the state of t that most of its workers would be going home after lunch. Others were less candid, even if it was questionable how many of those lunchtime drinkers would return to their desks. The unreality was appropriate,

party the City threw but Bri-ain stayed away from, the Eurovision Song Comest that we hosted but did not enter.

London will be the main trading centre for the euro, but Britain has stayed out. The ru-mours are widespread that at least one big continental bank, probably French, is seriously underprepared. If they are true, we will probably know by the end of next week when the trades done have to be settled. Because of the huge sums in-

be serious. But the runs be serious. But the rumpors give rise to charvinistic minth rather than any real compan.
Furthermore, many of these City workers who may or may not be going through the mattons know that they are fiving on borrowed time. The consults on borrowed time. The con ants on euro-work will find jobs in millennium bug control, but the City is stated for thousands of job losses in the new year, most announced but

vew tul

Market

as yet unimplemented. One vignette. At a big City institution, in a room more crowded than most just minutes after the conversion rates were announced from Brus-sels, a knot of people are transfixed by their computer screens Draw closer, though

Markets take euro switch in their stride

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

EUROPEAN central banks breathed a sigh of relief yes-terday as the final act of converting national currencies into euros passed off without

While the European Commis-sion unveiled the final conversion rates amid great pomp and ceremony in Brussels, the markets were more concerned with pressing ahead with systems revisions before the first

day of real trading on Monday. Central banks had been on full alert in case currency spec-ulation required last-minute intervention to restore parities between the euro zone currencies.

The Irish punt and the Italian lira had been regarded as potentially vulnerable because both currencies have previously strayed from their exchangerate mechanism central parities which European leaders had decided in May would provide the basis for conversion.

There was also concern that sterling volatility could create problems because the pound is a member of the notional ecucurrency basket -- used by the European Commission to establish the final euro conversion rates — although it has not joined the single currency. Before conversion the pound fell two pfennigs to DM2.7724 in its final trading session against the mark, but the decline

was insufficient to push conversion rates far from market expectations. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, admitted that the pound's recent decline had resulted in a slightly stronger than expected franc to euro conversion rate. Claudio Piron, treasury econ-

omist at Standard Chartered, said: "The currency market response may seem bizarre - the atmosphere could be described as moribund for such a historic event." But Mr Piron said the lack of reaction was a positive sign that "the whole operation was carried out well", with the euro zone countries gently pushing the markets towards their stated conversion goal.

The few traders at their desks did have the option of conducting indirect trade in the euro, using the ecu, which was due to convert into the euro at a rate of one to one at midnight. There was a brief flurry as traders moved from

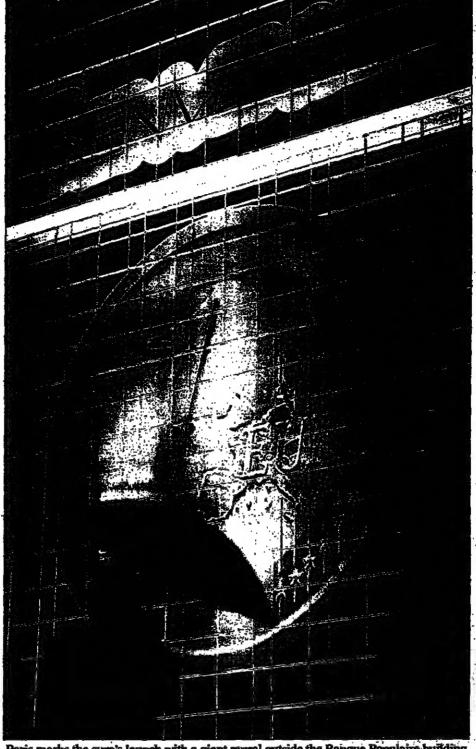
the dollar to the ecu, pushing up the effective value of the euro from the official conversion rate of \$1.1685 to \$1.1720.

The pound also slipped slightly from an initial value of 70.55p to the euro to 70.63p by the end of the day. Traders ad-mitted, however, that there was uncertainty as to the precise value at which the euro will open trade on Monday, with banks offering quotes ranging from \$1.1664 to \$1.1728.

While the markets were quiet the policy battle over the future of the European Central Bank continued. Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, again dropped a strong hint that he wants the ECB to begin cutting rates to help to reduce unemployment. Wim Duisen-berg, ECB President, warned European governments on Wednesday that lower interest rates will not prove a panacea for high unemployment and called on European leaders to

underiake structural reforms. Mr Duisenberg yesterday said he would make no further comments on his tenure at the ECB after France accused him of reneging on a promise to make way for a French ECB President halfway through his allotted eight-year term.

News reports, page 10



Paris marks the euro's launch with a giant mural outside the Banque Populaire building

Lord Mayor, fights to keep City in the money

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

LONDON is stepping up its campaign to prevent the City from losing its pre-eminence

as Europe's financial centre. Lord Levene of Portsoken, the Lord Mayor and the chairman of Bankers Trust international, will visit key financial decision-makers on a whistle-stop tour of Frankfurt, Paris, Milan, Madrid. Amsterdam and Brussels. The initiative coincides with the launch of the euro as the City ponders the risk that money market business might be lost to Frankfurt and Paris.

.The Lord Mayor will ask politicians and bankers not to view the market rivairy as a narrow national contest. "If Europe loses the asset that London represents, we will never regain it," he said. Lord Levene said he was con-

fident that London would take the iion's share of trade in the euro, even if Britain remained outside. "London is almost extraterritorial. We do more one else despite the fact that the UK is not in the dollar zone." City banks account for about 30 per cent of trade in the dollar and 28 per cent of trade in the mark.

However, continental banks have already mounted a challenge to the pre-eminence of London in setting euro lending rates. The European Banking Federation is sponsoring Euri-

bor, an index of interbank lending rates to rival Euro-Libor, sponsored by the British Bankers' Association.

According to Will Mason, BBA director, Euribor was designed to replace domestic in-terbank offer rates and he believes that continental countries balked at setting a rate for the euro in London. To begin with, Euribor will be used by banks in the cure zone."

The European Banking Federation yesterday said that Euribor was based on 57 banks, whereas Euro-Libor was just 16 banks in London. A spokesman said: Euro-Libor only reflects the London market and most of them are Anglo-Saxon banks. We wanted to have a rate reflecting market value, not just what is

happening in London." Nicholas Boncke, secretarygeneral, said: "As far as the Paris bank market is concerned, the bulk of deals will be linked to Euriboi

However, Mr Mason be lieves that counter-parties will ultimately seek the keenest rate, and so far, London's Euro-Libor has set a rate several pasis points below Euribor. The competition will be keenest in the futures market and both Eurex and London's Liffe are hedging their bets: offering futures products based on Euribor and Euro-Libor rates.

No 1603

ACROSS 1 Wool-winding stick (7) 520 ac — Gray's country churchyard (5) 8 Wakeful night (5)

9 Incorporate

whole) (7)

10 Grassland; straight track (3) 11 Exactness (9) 12 Idiomatic expression (6) 14 Himalayan guide (6) 17 Performers' entrance (5,4) 18 Miserable (3)

19 Wide area, stretch (7) 20 Fuel (fire) (5) 21 Eskimo canoe (5) 22 Burial mound (7)

DOWN I Grow to maturity (7) 2 Soft and wet (5) 3 Sicken (3) 4 Nurse, encourage (6 5 Book issuer (9) 6 More showy (7)

7 Coil of yarn (5) 11 Boris —, Zhivago author (9) 13 Try again (for job) (7) 15 Where one lives (7) 16 Big wood (6) 17 Tale-teller (5) 18 Tape-winding reel (5)

20 Total (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1602 ACROSS: 1 Challenger 9 Element 10 Louis 11 Vice 12 Subgoena 14 Normal 15 Rigged 18 Octavian 20 Gash 22 Brawl 23 Utopian 24 Disjointed DOWN: 2 Heel 3 Litmus 4 Ellipsis 5 Gouge 6 Rise and shine 7 Heaven forbid 8 Mercer 13 Malvolio 16 Gratis 17 Saturn 19 Teams 21 Lore

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Target hopes to hit the bull's eye

BY DOMING WALSH

ONE of the pressure points on Monday morning, when euro trading begins, will be Target, the system for processing large, cross-border euro payments, which goes live at 6am GMT.

Target (Trans-European Automated Real-time Gross settlement Express Transfer system) has been developed by the European Central Bank and the national banks of the 15 EU member states and is based in Frankfurt, the home of the ECB. Target, which will operate

for 11 hours each working day, will be a real-time system.

This means that payments will reach their destination within a couple of minutes. The speed of the transactions and volume capacity should make log-jams unlikely. The ECB has granted access

to Target to national central banks outside the ileuro countries provided they have real-time gross settlement (RTGS) systems operating in the euro. Any UK payments to or from other countries through Tar-get will be handled by the Bank of England.

In effect, the Bank will act as . an interface between Target and the banks that own and

tomated payment system), the UK's wholesale payments system that handles an average of 70,000 sterling transactions a day, worth £150 billion. Although the capacity of Target as it relates to the UK has not been revealed, the Bank of England said it was likely to be "larger still" than the

135,000 transactions a day. But despite the complexity of implementing such a sys-tem, the ECB is adamant that it is as safe as it is possible for it to be. It points out that testing on Target started in June

CHAPS sterling capacity of

run Chans Idearing house au- 1997, and included a sixmonth simulation period involving hundreds of hours of tests of every component. Hundreds of credit institutions took part, culminating in a volume test on November 28 when almost 100,000 test pay-ments were processed during normal business hours.

The ECB said: "Each national central bank participating in Target has a full back-up system to ensure that - with the exception of unforeseen disasters - its processing capacity will never be out of action for more than one hour during

Bradford & Bingley braced for attack by carpetbaggers



BRADFORD & BINGLEY,

ing society, faces an attempt by carpethaggers to force it to convert to a bank and pay windfalls to 2.5 million people. The conversion campaign is being led by Stephen Major, a quantity surveyor from Lis-burn. Co Antrim. Mr Major has submitted a resolution on conversion to the society, and is planning to stand for elec-tion to the board. His attempt is being backed by 50 mem-bers of the society. For the resolution to be valid, the 50 members must have been with the society for at least two years and have had minim savings and mortgages

UK's biggest building society, defeated an attempt by Michael Hardern, a freelance butier, to force the society to convert. Mr Hardern also tried to stand for the board of Bradford & Bingley, but his application failed because some of his 50 backers did not have the right qualifications. Nationwide managed to defeat Mr Hardern by only about 30,000 votes from a total of 2.2 million votes cast. The £22 billion Bradford &

Bingley is headed by Christo-pher Rodrigues, a staunch de-fender of mutuality. The society's discounting on mortgages and higher savings rates has helped to boost its asset size. If Mr. Major's conversion resolution is passed at the society's annual meeting in April,

then a formal vote would have to take place. In the conversions of Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock members voted overwhelmingly in favour, with millions of people net-ting windfalls averaging between £1,000 and £2,000.

The start to business in the new year for the Bradford & Bingley is set to be marred by a bout of conversion specula-tion, as it is still possible to open an account with the soci-city with as little as £500 and benefit from any conversion

Yesterday, Yorkshire Building Society confirmed that Mr Hardern intended to stand for election to its board to propose the society take immediate steps to convert to a bank.



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The challenge comes only

months after Nationwide, the